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P15

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GMA wants English back; Erap objects

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING bird catches the worm. Or so thinks President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has changed her mind GMA/A18



Bush: Full force vs Saddam

We will consult, but let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam does not fully disarm ... we will lead a coalition to disarm him.

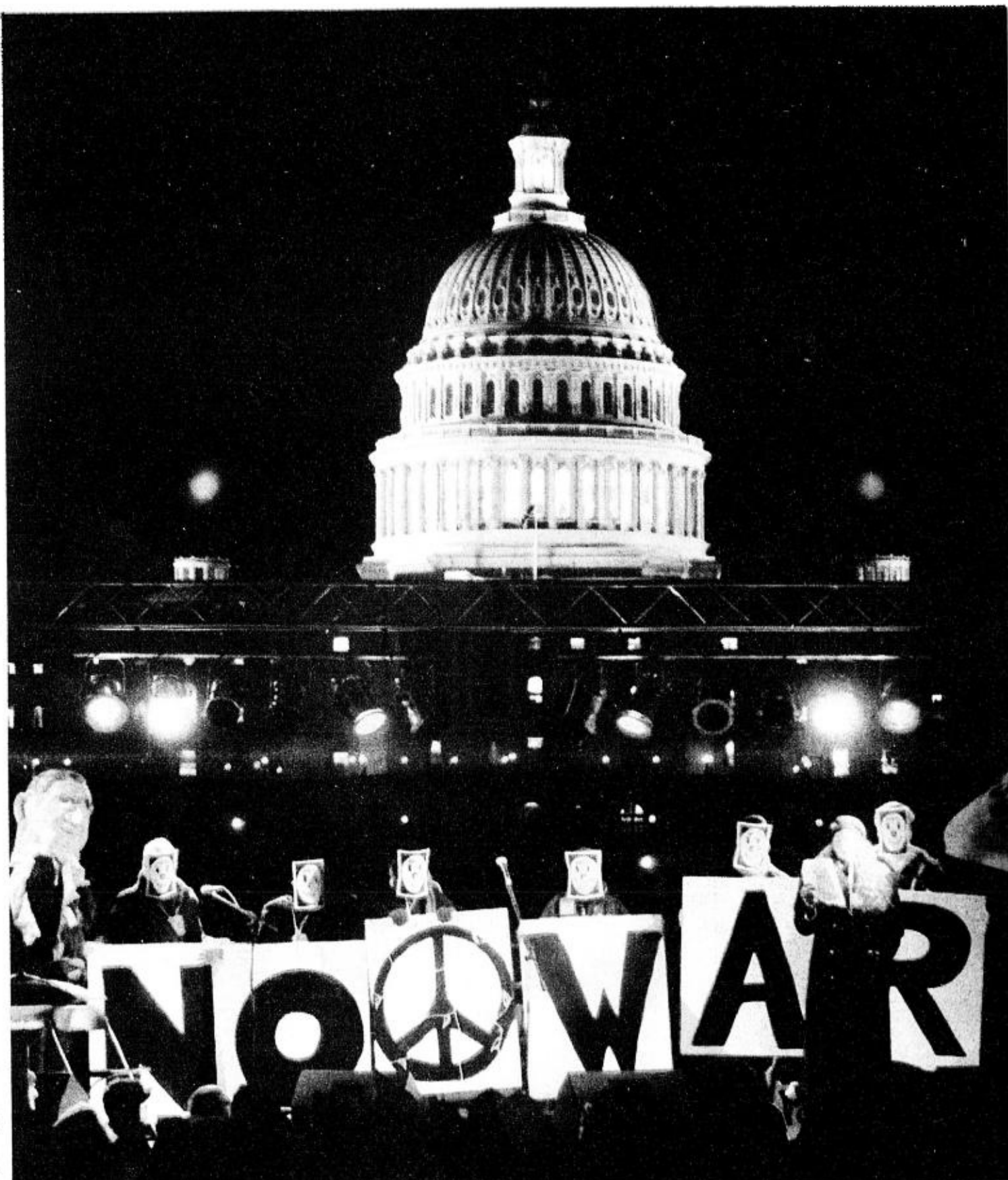
All free nations have a stake in preventing catastrophic attacks, and we're asking them to join us ... Yet the course of this nation does not depend on the decision of others.

Some cheered, others worried

TOKYO—A world wary of war cautiously welcomed calls by US President George W. Bush for a tougher stance against Iraq, with some nations cheering the news Wednesday and others worried Washington was leaning toward conflict.

European countries, largely skittish of an attack on Iraq, seemed encouraged by Bush's announcement that US Secretary of State Colin Powell would go before the UN Security Council next week to present the US case against Iraq.

SOME/A16



THE DRUMS of war sound increasingly near but outside the US Capitol in Washington DC, protesters hold an assembly as President George W. Bush prepares to deliver his State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress.

'He left himself no out but to go to war'

WASHINGTON—Determined to go to war against Iraq, President George W. Bush said he had fresh evidence that Saddam Hussein not only refused to disarm but also threatened to "dominate, intimidate or attack" with weapons of mass destruction that he could share with terrorist allies.

Should Saddam force war on the United States "with his utter contempt for the United Nations and the opinion of the world," Bush vowed to "fight with the full force and might of the United States military" to disarm Iraq.

As lawmakers rose 77 times to interrupt Bush's speech with resounding applause, Sen. Jim Jeffords, an independent from Vermont, remained seated shaking his head.

"As far as I'm concerned, he declared war on Iraq tonight," said Jeffords, who stands politically with the opposition Democrats. "He left himself no out other than going to war. It sounds like he's not listening to anyone. He wants war. He just wants a war."

Sen. Edward Kennedy said he would introduce a resolution requiring Bush to present "convincing evidence of an imminent threat" before sending troops to fight Iraq.

"Instead of rushing down the path to war with Iraq, the American people deserve a full debate," Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said in a written statement. (More reactions to Bush's speech on this page.)

"A future lived at the mercy of terrible threats is no peace at all," Bush said in a State of the Union address delivered before Congress BUSH/A16

10-hour dash to Jordan set for 80 Pinoys in Iraq

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

IN THE event of a US attack, the 80 Filipinos in Iraq would immediately leave for a 10-hour cross-border motor ride to Am-

man, Jordan.

In case neighboring Kuwait is attacked by Iraq, 60,000 Filipinos living in the capital would evacuate to a southern city "very far" from the Iraqi border.

10-HOUR/A16

RP supports US case at Security Council

By Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Volt Contreras

UNIMPRESSED by US President George W. Bush's clarion call for war, administration and opposition legislators in the Senate and

House of Representatives urged the Macapagal administration not to be bullied into supporting the US plan to wage war on Iraq.

President Macapagal herself said she was supporting the US decision to present evidence against Iraq at the United Nations

Security Council and urged Baghdad to open up to the UN arms inspectors.

"The Philippines supports the case brought by the United States against Iraq before the UN Security Council," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"For the sake of peace in the Middle East, we call on Iraq to give the UN Security Council resolution the most urgent and serious consideration and to extend full cooperation to the UN arms inspection teams," she said.

RP SUPPORTS/A17



Antipolo bishop fathers child, quits

By Armand Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

THE CATHOLIC bishop of Antipolo resigned from his post after reportedly fathering a child last year.

Bishop Crisostomo A. Yalung, 49, a theological scholar and writer, is the first Filipino bishop to resign due to an alleged sex scandal.

The Vatican announced Yalung's resignation on Dec. 7 ANTIPOL/A18

BISHOP C. YALUNG: God be my best judge. POI FILE PHOTO/AL HANDUMON



LAST farewell from the family and friends of Rolly Kintanar who was cremated yesterday morning at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. (Story on Page A5.)

Red splinter group vows to fight NPA

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—A group that broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has vowed to fight the New People's Army (NPA), the CPP's armed wing, over control of territory.

The Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), whose leaders had been tagged as "traitors" to the revolution by CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, said it wanted to wrest control of towns and provinces in Mindanao from the NPA.

"The truth is many people in Mindanao do not sympathize with the NPA because of their RED/A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/30/03

SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Halo/Bacelo	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laosag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Lagapzi	Cloudy with Rains	Gogayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Lakas looking at Davide as 2004 bet

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The administration party is strongly considering Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as its standard bearer in the 2004 elections.

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Joey Rufino, also a top leader of the administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), said they were looking at Davide "with very much interest and we feel, he is also a very good material to lead the country."

Rufino said Davide's integrity and track record as leader of the Supreme Court made him a strong presidential candidate.

He also pointed out that that Davide has a good chance of winning because he is from the Visayas.

"I think Chief Justice Davide,

coming from the Visayas, makes a strong possibility of being a candidate because the region is big and the Cebuano-speaking voting population (is also big)," he said.

Daivide could not be reached for comment yesterday. He had repeatedly said he had no political ambition.

He had told reporters that he planned to go back to his hometown

in Argao, Cebu, and live a life of a farmer and a writer once he retires from the judiciary in 2005 at age 70.

The INQUIRER called up the house of Davide's family at the Capitol Site in Cebu City. A relative who answered the phone said Davide had instructed them not to talk to reporters especially on any political issue.

But she stressed that Davide has remained firm in his decision not to run for any elective post.

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, Lakas-NUCD provincial chair, said Davide would get the support of the Cebuanos if he decides to run.

But he said he would have to wait for the announcement of

President Macapagal on her choice for president before he could give any commitment.

The other possible standard bearers being considered by the ruling party were Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Loren Legarda, Noli de Castro, Ramon Magsaysay and Juan Flavio.

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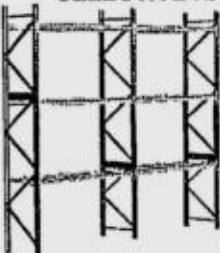
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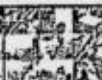
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SC sets aside plea of Erap lawyer

By Donna S. Cueto

THE Supreme Court has ordered the Sandiganbayan to set aside the arraignment for plunder of former President Estrada's lawyer, Edward Serapio, that happened in July 2001, and ordered the anti-graft court to proceed with his bail hearings even without his arraignment.

While the Supreme Court said that Serapio, legal counsel of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, was "not entitled to bail as a matter of right at this stage of the proceedings," it said that the Sandiganbayan could already proceed with bail hearings on his case.

The high court said the Sandiganbayan committed a grave abuse of discretion in ordering the arraignment of petitioner before proceeding with the hearing of his petition for bail.

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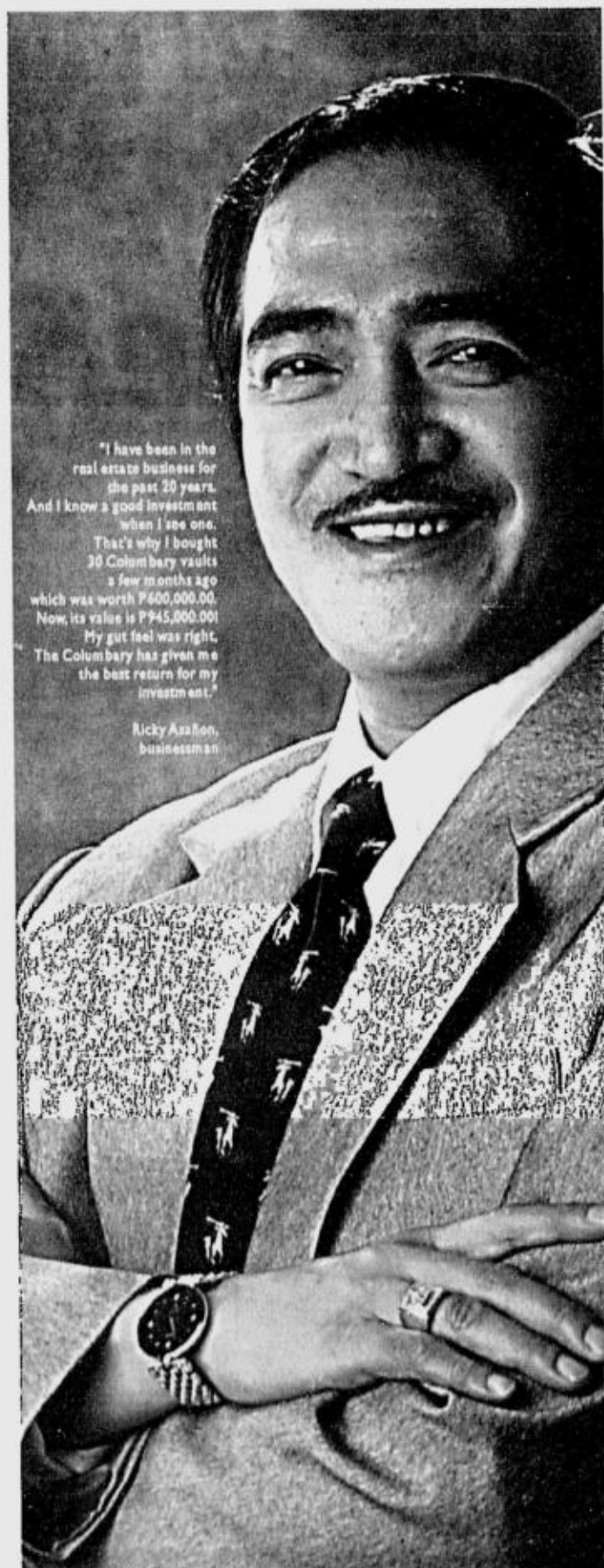
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Voting on Tancangco impeach deferred

By Christine Avendaño

the session hall, or for the House to have six congressmen less a quorum.

SOME congressmen deliberately left the House last night so that no voting on the fate of the impeachment bid against Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco would take place.

The House leadership decided to adjourn the session due to lack of quorum. They deferred the voting for next week.

The adjournment gave anti-Tancangco solons more time to woo their colleagues to their side.

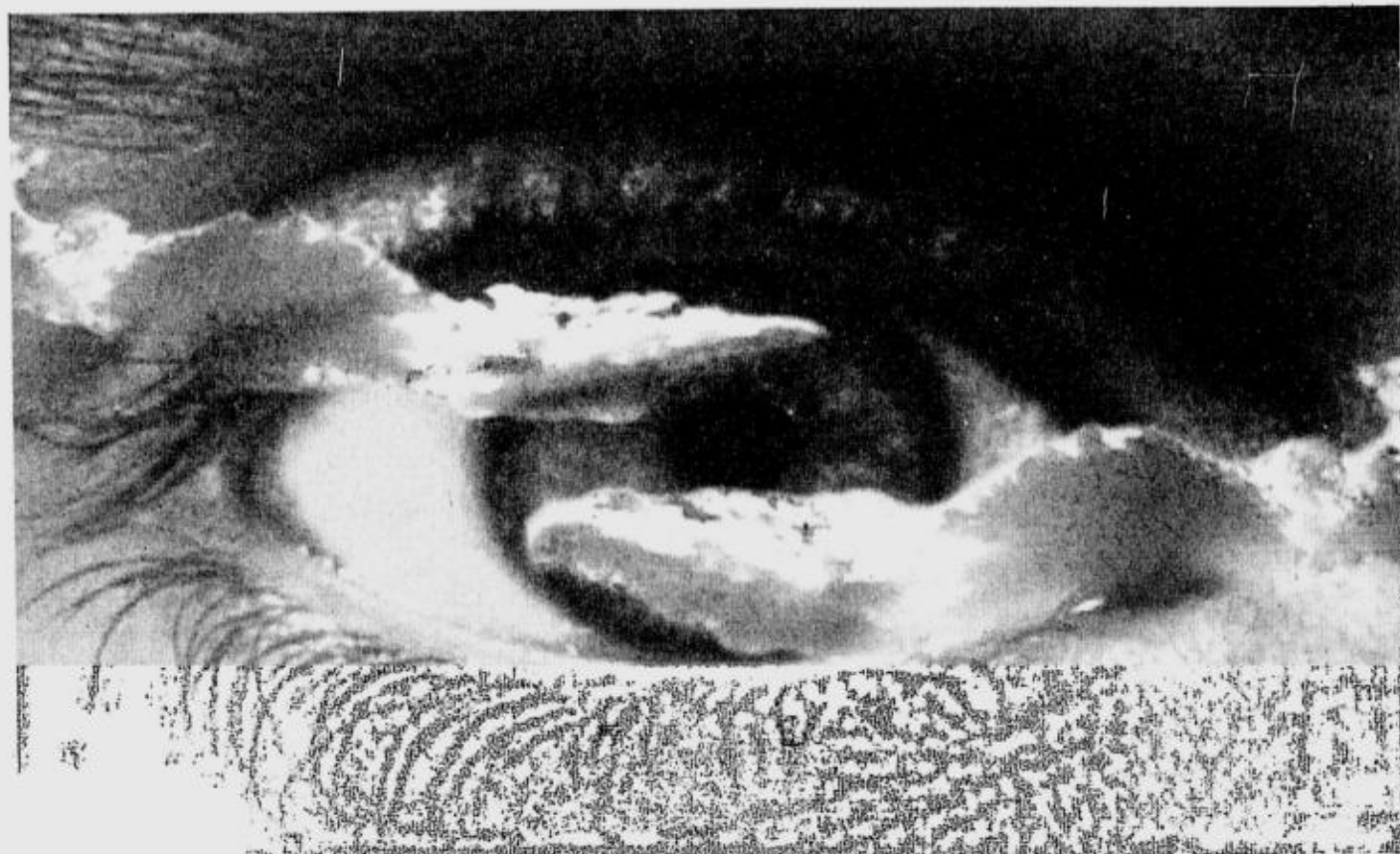
Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said that only 104 members were left in

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TRIBUTE TO KINTANAR

He worked, lived, died for his dream

By Alcuin Papa

"HE not only dreamed, he worked and lived... and died for his dream."

This was the essence of a tearful tribute spoken yesterday by the widow of slain ex-New People's Army chief Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar.

In emotional cremation rites at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City, Ma. Gloria "Joy" Kintanar vowed to "pursue all avenues" to bring her husband's killers to justice. "We leave it to God to forgive those who killed him," she told reporters.

Kintanar was gunned down inside a Japanese restaurant in Quezon City last week. The NPA has since owned up to the killing, through spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

Cremation ceremonies started with a 9 a.m. Mass officiated by Fr. Robert Reyes. A message from former Senate President Jovito Salonga was then read. When the coffin was opened for the last time, Joy and their 10-year-old son Gabriel wept copiously as they hugged Kintanar's body.

The cremation started just before 10 a.m. and lasted for two and a half hours. The ashes were then placed inside a bag, wrapped in red cloth, and placed inside a varnished box.

Clutching the box close to her, Joy became more upset when reporters mentioned Rosal. "I hope people in the movement would stop being robots and start to think," she said.

Human rights lawyer Arno



KINTANAR

Sanidad announced during necrological services on Tuesday night that he was willing to defend Kintanar's killers, should a case against them be filed before the courts.

"I will defend you," he addressed former comrades, "hoping you will learn that you—like Rolly—have rights that should be respected and protected; that unlike what you did to Rolly Kintanar, (you should be) entitled to the full due process of law."

In Lucena City yesterday, Rosal said the P1 million bounty put up for his capture was a desperate attempt to link him directly to the planning and implementation of Kintanar's slay.

In a statement, Rosal said the PNP and AFP were "mistaking the implementor with the bearer of what for them is bad news." Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio, Martin P. Marfil, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reds reject truce, rebuff peace draft

COMMUNIST guerrillas yesterday threatened to cut off peace talks with the government as they rejected ceasefire calls and rebuffed a draft political settlement offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The option of waiting for a new government that is more open-minded has become more realistic," Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio Rosal said in a statement.

Rebel leaders were to discuss a proposal by their peace negotiating team "as to the question of formalizing the indefinite suspension" of talks with the government, Rosal added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended formal peace talks in mid-2001 after the CPP's 9,000-member armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) assassinated two legislators. But following a series of attacks by guerrilla hit squads, the government has sounded out the rebels on a draft peace agreement.

Rosal charged that the government's peace plan was "a patently militarist product" whose only agenda was "for us to surrender our weapons, and essentially our fight."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes insisted that the CPP should "reciprocate government's sincere gestures," and take a second look at the draft

agreement, instead of prematurely junking it.

From the Netherlands, exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison yesterday clarified a statement he made on Monday, saying he had not rejected the peace plan.

"I said that the (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) could consider indefinite suspension of negotiations," Sison said in an e-mailed reply to a query made by the INQUIRER.

Meanwhile, the government has urged the Netherlands to expel Sison for the 2001 assassination of congressman Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

"With the filing of murder raps against Jose Maria Sison, we now have a serious reason to ask the Dutch government to send him back to the Philippines," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement yesterday.

Sison earlier dismissed the murder charges as trumped up and political. **Martin P. Marfil, Delfin T. Mallari of PDI Southern Luzon, with reports from AP and Agence France-Press**

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AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE CITY MAYOR AND THE COUNCIL OF MANILA

We are respectfully submitting the following appeals from the Department of Energy and the National Security Council supporting our urgent request for the renewal of our business permit in Pandacan.

Statement issued by the Honorable Vincent S. Perez Jr., Secretary of Energy

There is a real possibility that the Pandacan Oil Depot will be shut down by the end of the month to give way to the Manila City's urban renewal development program.

The Manila City Government should allow oil companies to continue with their operations by re-issuing their respective business permits for the following reasons.

The oil companies may not have substantial compliance on the Memorandum of Understanding, but substantial compliance on safety has been achieved. Considering the politically tense situation in the Middle East, this is no time for the dislocation of the Pandacan facilities. National interests should prevail.

Pandacan provides for over 50 percent of Northern Luzon's and over 90 percent of Metro Manila's fuel needs. Shutting down its operations will mean potential supply disruptions as oil normally transported via pipeline from Batangas and by vessel from Bataan would have to be trucked to different delivery points in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon. And since more trucks will be needed to supply the increasing oil demand of consumers and of business, congestion of the South Luzon Expressway and Metro Manila thoroughfares will immediately result. And since transport costs to ferry this oil will increase, resulting from investments in tank trucks and receiving facilities, the prices of local petroleum products will likely increase, exacerbating an already volatile situation.

World prices of crude have been soaring to record levels over the last few weeks because of a looming Iraqi conflict, the eight-week labor strike which has paralyzed Venezuela's oil industry and the tight world petroleum supply. And despite OPEC's efforts to increase production, these issues remain and are adversely affecting world prices.

The greater national and public interest require that the Pandacan oil depot be allowed to operate at its present location.

The Department of Energy prepared contingency measures to ensure a stable and secure supply of oil. Such contingency measures include the promulgation of guidelines for the minimum oil inventories that oil companies are required to maintain. Maintaining the Pandacan oil depot in its present location is a critical factor in the effectiveness of our National Contingency Plan to mitigate the impact of the possible oil supply crisis.

The closure of Pandacan operations would leave the country and the national economy exposed and vulnerable to international events and trigger untold distress to our consumers and domestic industry.

We should not back down on our joint efforts to rationalize petroleum facilities within the context of Metro Manila's urban development. But we should undertake such efforts taking into consideration the interest of the greater number.

We appeal to Mayor Atienza and the City Council to weigh the importance between the greater public interest vis a vis urban development at this crisis situation.

Statement issued by the National Security Council

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez urged the Manila City government to reconsider their decision to shut down the Pandacan oil terminal by refusing to renew the business permits of the oil companies operating the facility. "The overall security environment has drastically changed in view of the Iraq situation," Golez said. "We have to give priority to oil supply security."

Secretary Golez said the Manila City government led by Mayor Lito Atienza should only allow Caltex, Petron, and Pilipinas Shell to continue with their operations of the Pandacan oil terminal. He said it is imperative that the country's oil supply should not be disrupted in the midst of escalating tension in the Middle East, which is the world's largest producer of oil.

"There is a lot of tension going on in the Middle East. The least that we could do is for us to work closely to ensure there is enough supply of oil in the country. Shutting down the Pandacan oil terminal, which provides 50 percent of Northern Luzon's and 90 percent of Metro Manila's fuel needs, will greatly imperil our oil supply security," he said even as he acknowledged efforts of the Manila City Government to rationalize its urban development program.

"The crisis is both on the national government and the local government to cooperate to ensure security of oil supply at a time of uncertainty. Greater national interest; in this case our national oil security, should be a priority over anything else," he said.

"World oil prices have been shooting record levels in the past weeks in reaction to the world events. Our domestic prices have also gone up. If the Pandacan oil depot is closed, we might see our local prices soar in higher level," he said. "I call on our city government officials to continue looking at the bigger picture and consider the national interest in discussing this issue."





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legislative districts with pending cases, and many representatives appeared to be held hostage by the Comelec. In the light of this, can we expect any good to come out of the Comelec?

Then, too, several big religious groups reportedly have come out to support her, among them the Jesus is Lord (JIL) movement, Mike Velarde's El Shaddai and the Iglesia ni Cristo. Interestingly, JIL's Eddie Villanueva's son, Rep. Joel Villanueva, is said to be for Tancango, though ironically his party-list group calls itself Citizens' Battle Against Crime (Cibac). It's sad, but all the party-list groups were expected to go for Tancango. The high expectations of citizens from this group of legislators are almost gone.

If Tancango's supporters succeed in preventing an investigation, then Filipinos should seriously consider whether they would let the House amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly. The complaint against her is well-documented and backed by no less than the Supreme Court and COA, yet the justice committee threw it as casually as it would garbage into the bin, without giving a reason for its action. While the Senate is the impeachment court, the House is tasked with verifying the facts, but it did no such thing.

Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, whose committee on constitutional amendments is spearheading the effort to convene a constituent assembly, did a brilliant job of pushing for an investigation on the floor Tuesday. The former San Beda College Law professor, who continues to be a bar reviewer in constitutional law, de-

molished the argument that the case against Tancango is a "political question" over which the justice committee has "full discretionary authority" to decide according to its fancy. Nachura argued that the House rules on impeachment clearly defines the term "insufficiency of substance," the reason cited by the pro-Tancango group for junking the complaint. Because this insufficiency argument is already circumscribed by the rules, Nachura argued, applying it in this case was a grave violation of the chamber's rules. He also expressed concern that the outcome of the voting on the case would affect the campaign for a constituent assembly.

As I wrote this column yesterday, I prayed, like many citizens, for a miracle: That the House members would rise to this historic occasion and shed self-interest to pursue good governance. That they would give us a preview of what they are capable of doing vis-à-vis the Constitution.

An environmental group called Winner Foundation (WF), led by Regina Rocas Paterno, has taken issue with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza over his plan to construct a building for teachers in the old Department of Education compound, now the Arroceros Forest Park. WF entered into a contract with the city government in November 1993 to develop the Forest Park over a 15-year period, after which its supervision and control would be turned over to the city. WF argues that this 15-year period is not yet over and, therefore, Atienza's plan to construct a building there would wreck its development plan for the park, which was approved by the city government during the tenure of Mayor Alfredo Lim. Paterno argues that this contract is "valid, subsisting and binding" and WF has the "civic and moral duty" to oppose Atienza's new project.

From the ecological point of view, it can be argued that Atienza's plan should be scrapped. The Forest Park, with all its trees, some of which are over 100 years old, is one of the few green and open spaces in a metropolis that's choking with buildings and pollution.

(More on this controversy later)

The carabaos wallow

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



was just an anachronism, reflecting "a racism prevalent in the military and society at large at the beginning of the 20th century." One of Urbina's sources, a member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (which honors Filipinos whom the United States convinced to fight the Katipuneros), says he has attended a "Wallow" and "saw absolutely no evidence that such attitudes toward Filipinos exist."

Okay, so the war for our independence is just the excuse for this annual stag party. But the composition of the attendees, a mix of civil servants, ranking officials, military brass and military suppliers, as well as the mood and rhetoric of the event, provides a glimpse of the "real" American foreign and military policy to come.

Judging from the speeches delivered in last year's "Wallow" and the gleeful reaction to them, Urbina concludes that "an imperial renaissance is upon us." Already, say organizers, the venue for this year's "Wallow" promises to be "extremely packed," with organizers having to turn away a hundred latecomers.

URBINA quotes a journalist as describing the "Wallow" as "the military-industrial complex's answer to the Gridiron," with participants drawn into performing parody songs that "satirize politics and often smack liberals who try to slash the Pentagon's budget."

But who cares about woolly-mouthed liberals when the message from the Oval Office is a benign "for-the-boys" thumbs up?

Urbina predicts the "Wallow's" revelry this year "will be even more enthusiastic than usual, and it

will no longer simply feel like nostalgia. The drumbeats of war against Iraq will sound to this crowd like the rebirth of an American Empire."

The imperial fever is not expected to wane at the end of the weekend revelry. In fact, the gung-ho mood not only reflects but reinforces policy, at least as crafted and implemented by the influential "Carabaos" who take part in it.

"The Wallows' guest list often includes not only the most powerful money people in the nation's vast military industry," notes Urbina, "but also the top political figures. An aide to Secretary of State Colin Powell said the general didn't make last year's Wallow but confirmed his presence at the 2003 bash and told the Voice that he has often attended them."

EXPECTED to head this year's "Wallow," "the bull who will lead the charge," is Adm. James M. Loy, a former Coast Guard commandant who heads the Transportation Security Administration, the agency now responsible for US airport security. "His experience in making fun of Filipinos may come in handy when his security personnel run into dark-skinned travelers," writes Urbina. "Last August, Loy told The Boston Globe that the controversial practice of profiling 'has the capacity to serve as one of the growth elements' of his brand-new agency."

Other Carabaos, as Urbina tells it, have shown up wherever racial and gender discrimination have reared their ugly heads in American law and policy. And of course carabaos are present wherever there is talk of war.

So, is the US government, or rather, the Bush administration, really out to protect the security of the free world when it sends soldiers and heavy armaments against Iraq? The bellowing at this weekend's "Wallow" could very well indicate that America is more interested in redrawing the map of the world, dividing the globe into "them" and "us," civilizing unfriendly elements with the krag, while holding aloft trophies of war, today's equivalent of bloody ears.

municate almost instantly and "be there" with their families. Call them cyberfamilies or whatever, the fact is, e-mail—and the telephone—have virtually become an added binding force keeping many OFW families together.

Dr. Guadalupe's letter was one of several that I received reacting to that piece on OFW families and the Church-sponsored 4th World Meeting of Families that ended last Sunday. You realize you've struck a raw nerve when e-mailed reactions come in so early in the day.

Yes, Doctor, how I wished an OFW family had also been picked to give their testimony before thousands who were gathered at Rizal Park and to those watching the liturgy live on TV. How I wished a so-called "left-behind" family, headed either by the left-behind father or mother, had been given a chance to speak on their struggle to remain a "whole" family despite the physical absence of a loved one. I thought of those who had been excluded simply because they did not fit in.

I don't think families like the Guadalupe's are excluded. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has made studies on the situation of OFW families and has a ministry for this sector. Sadly, the overemphasis on the conventional family of mother-father-children-happy-together-under-one-roof has created a feeling of exclusion among those who are in different circumstances.

I won't bother to make an issue now but those of us who are singletons, who have opted or "have been called" to lead solitary lives in order to be more for others, definitely don't fit in that world meeting. I am not protesting to be included.

But I am amazed at how Dr. Guadalupe presented his case, that is, without rancor or bitterness, but instead pleading for understanding. No harsh words from this doctor who works among workers in the middle of the ocean, but a doctor no less.

Dr. Guadalupe, I paraphrase a pop song to say, you are family.

Send comments to cerespdpd@info.com.ph

Family dispute

I JUST had a heated talk with my father. We cannot agree on certain things, the same things that once held us together as a family.

Our family is a typical working-class family, except that we have gone through an experience that is not typical of the average Filipino family, an experience that changed my whole outlook in life, and changed it deeply.

In March last year, my father's labor union went through the process of negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement that ended in a deadlock. Because the management did not want to give in to the union's demands, the union staged a strike.

I learned about the strike the minute it was declared since both my father and my mother work in the same company and both are union members. I had a terrible feeling that it would bring more problems to our already pitiful existence.

In a matter of days our life turned into pure hell. Because we had no source of income but my parents' monthly wages, we had to tighten our belts. My already measly allowance of P100 a day had to be reduced to P40. Just enough for my fare in going to school and back and buy two sticks of cigarettes.

My father made it his personal responsibility to look after the strikers' everyday needs and so he had to sleep at the picket line. I had to go there to get my allowance from him.

During my trips to the picket line, while waiting for my father to finish his other self-imposed tasks, I made small talk with his co-workers. What started as polite conversations evolved into passionate debates, a battle of principles between enlightened proletariats and an idealistic student.

I had to struggle to keep my patience as I tried to explain the errors of staging a strike. I tried to make them see the reasonableness of the management's position. I had to explain why the government could not be blamed for a strike in a god-forsaken place: The government had so much more to do than look after the welfare of small-time workers in a spinning mill. Why should it attend to labor disputes when its first priority was to become America's No. 1 lap dog and support America's war against Iraq? Maybe if the President would withdraw Philippine support from America's war effort, the government could attend to "silly" labor disputes.

I enjoyed sparring with the workers intellectually and I got hooked on the discussions. One night, while slapping mosquitoes during our debates, I found myself agreeing with them. I began to see the issues they were raising as legitimate, relevant and worth fighting for.

Suddenly it hit me. I had been enlightened! I felt euphoric over my discovery and was proud of my father and the social class we belonged to.

I invited my professors and classmates to go to the picket line and learn from the workers. I had the details of our exposure trip all worked out, but on the day we were supposed to go, I learned that the Department of Labor and Employment had assumed jurisdiction over the labor dispute and ordered the workers to return to work.

I had mixed feelings that day. With my limited knowledge of labor laws, I could not decide whether what happened was good for the workers or not. I knew it was good news for my family since it meant food on the table and even an increase in my allowance. But I also knew that at some point this signaled defeat for my father as an employee and as a class-conscious proletariat. No matter how tasty the food on our table would be and how big the increase in my allowance, I would consider the return-to-work order of the labor department as a deception because the government and the capitalists were not only allies but the capitalists had already infiltrated the state that was supposed to protect the welfare of the workers. And because I did not agree with the decision of the labor department, I felt betrayed when my father reported for work the very next day.

That night I confronted my father. Our heated argument centered on the everyday issues affecting our family's income and livelihood. My father explained that he had to go back to work because defiance meant losing his job and, with all the bills we had to pay, we could not survive without him working, especially with the increasing costs of electricity (because of the so-called PPA) and water. Unless the government rechanneled the budget for debt service to social services, he said, we would continue to deal with yearly increases in my tuition. Going back to work was not a final defeat but a temporary setback because their case was still pending, he added.

I argued that the very fact that he went back to work meant he was bowing to the dictates of the powers that be.

I was demoralized over what happened, but I understood that there were many more issues that the workers had to face and what just happened was not enough reason for me to lose faith in the working class. Because of the way the government was running things, especially its globalization policies, I was certain the workers' movement could only gain more adherents and grow stronger.

After the whole experience, I expect more heated arguments with my father in the near future because I have realized that in a world that breeds exploitation and hunger, people like me who are born with nothing but the capacity to work are condemned to live in poverty until they pledge to embrace the interests of the working class and take collective action. I would like to see the day when the sons and daughters of the workers start to challenge their parents in discussions even if they escalate into shouting matches because the struggle of our parents against the tyranny of capital is also our struggle. We have to argue and fight not only because we are conscious of our class but because we are loving children.

Marlon Lee Garcia, 22, is an Advertising senior at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila and a member of Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Kampi).

THEY SAID

Welcome move

"You cannot expect a negative response from Colonel Corpus."

—AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago, saying it was all right for Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus to be moved to another post

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AS this column was being written yesterday afternoon, the plenary voting was scheduled in the House of Representatives on whether or not to investigate the impeachment complaint against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancango, but no one could predict its outcome. The justice committee, headed by Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelo Libanan, submitted last month its report wherein several issues raised against the feisty commissioner was overwhelmingly voted down by the members. The only hope for investigation lay in the vote of the plenary, and 73 votes were needed to send the complaint to the Senate, which is tasked to try impeachment cases.

Late yesterday the pro-impeachment group figured that it was short of only about 13 votes. Concerned citizens launched a last-minute rally for good governance by urging their representatives to be "on the side of history." The head-count showed a big group of House members remaining uncommitted, and it is surprising to find some names in this group because they have often taken a courageous stand on other issues. For instance, until yesterday the position of the "Spice Boys" couldn't be ascertained. Admittedly the prospects of getting 73 votes were not too encouraging. Apparently where self-interest is involved, House members tread cautiously.

I have often wondered where Tancango drew her strength and how she could terrorize almost everyone, except the small band of intrepid pro-impeachment legislators such as Representatives Apolinario Lozada, Aniceto Saludo and Antonio Cuenco. Several factors have worked in her favor. As mentioned earlier, one was the open campaigning by the Comelec led by Chair Benjamin Abalos, doubtless in the name of unity. Abalos is bent on appeasing his colleague so as not to become another Benipayo. There were disconcerting rumors that the commissioners were openly making deals: support Tancango in return for clearing mayors and vice mayors with pending cases before the Comelec. (Can this be investigated? But by whom, Congress?) There are some 80 local officials in 46

THIS Saturday, writes Ian Urbina in the Village Voice, more than a thousand American military and government leaders and their guests will be indulging in a weekend of what sounds like martial and macho posturings. The "secretive tribal rite," as Urbina describes it, is called the "Annual Wallow of the Military Order of the Carabao."

A point of interest to Filipinos is that the "Wallow" celebrates "the bloody conquest of the nascent Philippine Republic a century ago in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War." The Military Order of the Carabao is in fact named after our native water buffalo, and was founded in 1900 by American officers fighting in the Philippines.

"Acting like a cluster of Klingons," writes Urbina, referring to the warlike aliens in the latest "Star Trek" series, "the guys will toss around revered imperial slogans, such as 'Civilize 'em with a Krag!' referring to the rifles used by Americans to kill thousands of Filipinos, who had fought Spain for their freedom and didn't want to be handed over to another colonial power."

A high point of the annual rite, says Urbina, is the "bellowing" of the Carabao anthem, known as "The Soldier's Song." A few choice lines:

"In the days of dope dreams—happy, peaceful Philippines, / When the bolomen were busy all night long, / When ladrones (thieves) would steal and lie, and Americans die, / Then you heard the soldiers sing this evening song:

"Damn, damn, damn the insurrectos! / Cross-eyed kakiac ladrones! / Underneath the starry flag, civilize 'em with a Krag, / And return us to our own beloved homes."

Urbina says the chorus originally began: "Damn, damn, damn the Filipinos!" but in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, "hardly noted for a progressive stance on race," castigated the Carabaos for their insults to Filipinos and thus the change in lyrics. But Urbina refers to accounts that claim American soldiers marched and sang "The Soldier's Song" while carrying "ears they had lopped off the Filipinos' heads and kept as souvenirs."

ALL these would remain just mere curiosities, however offensive to Filipinos, if the "Wallow"

Letter from an OFW on family

"HELLO Ms Doyo, I'm a Filipino doctor working in a gas platform in the South China Sea near Hainan Island, People's Republic of China. My work keeps me away from my family most of the time, but I still manage to return home every chance I can get.

"When I read your recent article on the World Meeting of Families celebration, one thing hit me. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think you said the people behind the celebration must have overlooked the familial situation of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). They must have forgotten that although OFW families are not 'physically' whole, they are still a 'family.'

"I have two children, my eldest daughter is five years old and attends a Catholic school. In her kindergarten class, her teacher told them about the World Meeting of Families celebration and all students were required, together with their parents, to attend it in Ultra. The teacher also explained to them that during the celebration the whole family should be present; if anyone was missing, they would not be a family anymore.

"The night before my scheduled return to China, I was packing my bags when my daughter rushed to our bedroom crying. I asked her what was wrong and in between sobs she explained that her teacher told them that the whole family should attend the celebration in Ultra and if I went away we would not be a 'whole' family anymore. The whole night I tried to explain the best I could to her why I had to leave and that it is okay for a father or a mother to go away and work because we are just trying to give them a better future. I also tried hard to explain to her that even if I am not physically around we are still considered a 'whole' family, though not physically, but in our hearts and in our thoughts we are all together and a family. My wife was not of any help to me because she was crying too.

"The following morning, before I went to the airport, I dropped by her school and spoke to her teacher. I told the teacher about what had transpired the previous night and asked for her help

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



in explaining to my daughter my predicament and to tell her that we are indeed still a family.

"So you see, sometimes it's frustrating when people forget the real reason OFWs choose to be (away). And sometimes children are not aware why their parents are away, which is to earn more and provide them with a good life and a good education. I think teachers should help us get the message across to our children and to tell our kids that the OFW family is still a 'family.'

"Being an OFW is not a matter of choice anymore, it is a necessity. And we choose to be one simply because of our 'love of family.'

I received this letter from Dr. Ramon C. Guadalupe via e-mail early last Thursday, the day my piece on OFW families came out. This means the letter writer must have been reading that day's INQUIRER on his computer when I was also reading mine while having my breakfast coffee. Dr. Guadalupe's urge to react must have been so strong he ran to his computer and wrote what was in his heart. Imagine him on a gas platform surrounded by the sea.

I've been to a place in the middle of the South China Sea myself, on one of the contested Spratly Islands that the Philippines claims. It's the middle of nowhere indeed. I got there by flying on a small Air Force Nomad. Some of the so-called islands there are just shoals or reefs. So imagine living, working on a gas platform standing on stilts. That's how I imagine Dr. Guadalupe's place of work as a doctor. Like a high-tech version of "Waterworld," which starred Kevin Costner.

Thank God for the technology that gave us e-mail, now parents like Dr. Guadalupe can com-

Family can't be redefined by norms

I HOPE that the World Meeting of Families has strengthened the resolve of the various sectors of society to protect and defend the family. May the gay activists and the advocates of same-sex marriage understand that the family is not a mere social convention to be defined and redefined according to changing norms of political correctness. The family, in Aristotle's words, is founded "on a union of those who cannot exist without each other, namely male and female, that the race may continue."

I agree that homosexuals must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity, because most of them do not choose their homosexual inclination, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says. Homosexuals as human persons have the same rights as all persons, including the right not to be treated in a manner which offends their dignity. They have the right to work, to housing, etc. However, as Pope John Paul II said, "It is quite one thing to guarantee the rights of persons and quite another



er to encourage a misunderstanding by presenting a disorder as a situation that is right and good in itself."

Homosexual acts are contrary to the nature of man; they do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual compatibility. Homosexual activity "like contraception, frustrates the interpersonal communion intrinsic to the conjugal act." And where that act should be open to life, homosexual activity is a dead end.

The family is a society grounded in the nature of the human person. Its promotion is an essential aspect of the common good. And no amount of altering the law can change this fact.

—GLECY G. GAMBOA,
39-A 17th Ave.,
Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City

Workers want to return to DA

THE PERSISTENT clamor of the devolved agricultural workers to be put back under the Department of Agriculture's direct supervision and operational control (renationalization) has been more or less ignored these past 10 years. As in health service, where devolved health workers want to go back to the Department of Health's fold not just for personal reasons but more so—and rightly—because their service to their clientele have been negatively affected, our devolved agricultural workers, especially those who serve in poor provinces and municipalities, are also voicing out the same concerns.

While indeed the Local Government Code's concept of devolution has been consistently addressed and given due recognition, the plight of our less fortunate devolved workers in poor localities should also be taken into account, if only we are to consider

their services to our people.

On their own volition, devolved agriculture workers have rallied behind a move for their return to the national office of the DA. They organized Oplan-Ibalik and more than 55 percent of city and municipal agriculturists nationwide (887 out of 1,605) have signed up to express support.

It is encouraging to note that other sectors are also supporting the call for the renationalization of our agricultural workers. Local government units have consistently endorsed the move. Numerous resolutions have been passed by sanggunians nationwide on the matter.

Let us support our agricultural workers in their clamor for better service to the citizenry.

—CESAR V. SARMIENTO,
vice governor, Catanduanes,
Capitol Compound, Virac,
Catanduanes

From Fujian to Davao

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

"HAVE you visited your *lao jia* yet?"

Whenever I'm in China and people find out I'm ethnic Chinese, they'd ask that question. "*Lao*" literally means "old" and "*jia*" means "family." Together, the term means the ancestral home.

Last November I was finally able to visit my *lao jia*, together with my parents and sister, an occasion to think about what "family" means.

The Chinese *lao jia* anchor's one life, from cradle to grave. When you're born you already have a *lao jia*, determined by where your father, and his father, came from. Throughout life, you're expected to remember that *lao jia*, visiting as often as you can. This weekend, for example, marks the lunar new year and the Spring Festival, with millions of Chinese taking to the road to return home, a trip that may sometimes involve thousands of miles. Such visits, as mine was last November, become occasions to pay homage to your ancestors, to strengthen links with the living, to welcome new kin—in-laws, nephews, nieces.

The *lao jia* follows you to the grave. Even for those who die away from home, as many ethnic Chinese migrants did here in the Philippines, the name of the deceased's hometown is engraved into the tombstone, as much a part of the person's identity as his or her name.

For the overseas Chinese, a visit to the *lao jia* takes on added meaning, an occasion to understand our diaspora. My *lao jia* is Nan An in the southern province of Fujian. "Nan An" means "Southern Peace" and is one of several counties from which thousands of Chinese migrated to the Philippines. My paternal grandfather was one of those who ventured out during the early part of the 20th century, together with his brother, to settle in Davao.

That grandfather died young, so my father had few ties with relatives on that side, and to our *lao jia* in Nan An. In his youth, he was sent to Shanghai for high school and college, in the care of a maternal uncle. It was with that Shanghai branch of his family, as well as with my mother's Manila-based clan, that we built our ties.

My sister and I were quite excited about

this trip to Nan An, curious about which relatives we might meet. We'd realized that the only relative we "knew" from the *lao jia* was an aunt, my father's sister, who had spent her whole life in China. Whenever I visited my maternal grandmother in Davao, she'd show me faded photographs of that aunt, the pictures following her life as a child, a new bride, and eventually a mother, with a little girl. After my grandmother died, the photographs stopped coming, and that little girl faded from our memories.

It was a quiet Saturday morning when we drove through a bumpy, dusty road into Nan An. I could understand why so many Chinese left. Life is hard there, land scarce and not very fertile. Nan An is developing now, with light industries, but is still dependent on money from the *huaqiao*, the overseas Chinese.

We were able to find the place where our ancestral books were kept. These are extensive genealogies that include information on the Chinese who migrated to distant lands. It was in one of those ancestral books where I found my grandfather listed, when he was born and when he died, with details that included the year, month, day and even the time, all recorded using the Chinese calendar. The books also had dates for my grandfather's wives and all his children.

As we looked at the books, I realized we were surrounded by several older men, who it turned out were my father's cousins. Each of them would introduce themselves, explaining how we were related: "My father was your father's second brother." They were as interested in the ancestral books as we were, pointing to one of the Chinese names of my father's siblings and going, "This was the one known as Panching" while another went, "This was Doro."

Mind you, these men had never been to the Philippines. Perhaps sensing my surprise with the way they could identify people by their Filipino nicknames, one of them explained that they used to get letters, photographs and money sent from the Philippines by my grandmother. Ah, I realized, here was the other end of the correspondence that allowed these old men to "know" who their relatives were out in Mindanao.

In a small village my sister and I met a first cousin, a tiny woman who approached us shyly then hugged us with such warmth that it reminded me of my, no, our grandmother. In a way, I guess, we had known each other all these years: she was the little girl in my grandmother's photographs, clinging to her mother.

I took digital pictures of the pages from the ancestral books where my grandfather and his children were listed and when I got back to the Philippines, I was able to convert the Chinese dates into the Gregorian calendar. When I showed the dates to my father, he began to tell me stories from his childhood that I'd never heard before, for example about the uncle who had been killed by bandits in Davao and Doro, his favorite *ah-hia* or older brother.

He remembered, in particular, an incident from his childhood when strangers had come to their home and Doro, apparently apprehensive about the visitors' intentions, had whispered to my father to go up into the house and hide. My father described how tense the situation was and yet he had felt safe, confident that his *ah-hia* would protect him. Sadly, Doro died young, aged 18, bleeding to death after a tooth extraction.

Such stories were reminders of how precarious life was for the early Chinese migrants in this new land that was now their home, so full of promise and yet fraught, too, with dangers and uncertainty.

Family, whether we call it *lao jia* or *pamilya*, isn't just a matter of place or of relatives. It's all that coming together to give us a sense of roots and connectedness, even if with gaps and questions, to help us make some sense of who we are and what life might be all about.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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The Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund Inc. (PSMBFI) was established by the key officers and personnel of Philippine National Police (PNP) as an alternative to the Government Security Insurance System (GSIS). It is a non-stock, non-profit organization whose members are the uniformed personnel of the PNP and whose primary concern is the protection and promotion of the welfare of the members and their dependents.

The History

Congress passed Republic Act No. 8291, otherwise known as the "Government Service Insurance Act of 1997". This law was enacted on May 30, 1997 and signed by then President Fidel Valdez Ramos, Senate President Ernesto Maceda and Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia

Under the said Act, the uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and Bureau of

Fire Protection (BFP) were excluded from compulsory membership with the GSIS effective June 24, 1997.

Then Chief PNP, PDG Recaredo Sarmiento II was mindful of the effect of the withdrawal of the GSIS services to the PNP members who suffer casualty totaling to about 350-400 every year either in line of duty, sickness or accident. He was concerned with the dependents who will be deprived of insurance benefits due to the prohibitive premium required by the GSIS law.

PSMBFI was conceptualized in the later part of 1997 by then Chief, PNP PDG Recaredo A Sarmiento II. The idea was to work out an insurance plan for the PNP comparable to that of the insurance plan police officers are receiving from GSIS. Remedial measures were urgently needed and the PNP command in its best judgement considered PSMBFI the immediate solution to bridge the gap occasioned by the GSIS exclusion.

Towards the company's 5th anniversary, a rare achievement was reached as the company registered an impressive total asset amounting to Php 1,177,543,413.50 in November 2002.

Establishment

On December 11, 1997, PSMBFI was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock non-profit mutual benefit corporation with the corporate purpose of "providing financial and material aid and comfort to its members and families in case of losses, disability, necessities, unemployment and old age x x x and to provide retirement pension benefits to the members and their families".

The Support of the Members

The PSMBFI could not have gotten past the most crucial years without the trust and support of its members. The Association

passed through trying times yet PSMBFI stood with its noble commitment to support the policemen and his family.

Membership

The PSMBFI membership count continues to gain strength every year. In 1998, PSMBFI started with 94,903 policemen enrolled in the Equity Plan; 9,907 enrolled in the BGTP and 101,169 enrolled in the SGTI.

As of December 2002, members enrolled with the Equity Plan total 100,857; while 34,088 under the Basic Group Term Plan; and 106,487 under the Special Group Term Plan; and 99,538 under the Burial Assistance Benefit Plan.

Loans Granted

PSMBFI has granted Php 1,343,464,875.00 since December 1998 to December 2002 to about 40,826 members.

Insurance Claims

A total of Php 449,671,805.51 since the year 1998 to December 2002.

The Thrust of PSMBFI

PSMBFI Chairman Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr says that in the next five years, PSMBFI will provide improved services and product lines such as: scholarship program for the children of members; increased benefits but less premiums; and lower salary loans interest plus dividends share. "This is part of our commitment to uphold the security, safety and welfare of our members," says Chairman Ebdane.

As we face new challenges, we are also committed to nurture our steady growth and consolidate our gains. Expect better quality of assistance and efficiency in our work. This we owe to our members, the policemen and women who continuously trust and support

Celebrating 5 Years of Service

The World

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush: World won't be blackmailed by Nokor

WASHINGTON—The United States and the rest of the world will not be "blackmailed" by North Korea's drive for nuclear weapons, President George W. Bush said Tuesday in his State of the Union address.

"On the Korean peninsula, an oppressive regime rules a people living in fear and starvation," Bush said.

"Throughout the 1990s, the United States relied on a negotiated framework to keep North Korea from gaining nuclear weapons. We now know that the regime was deceiving the world, and developing those weapons all along.

"And today the North Korean regime is using its nuclear program to incite fear and seek concessions.

"America and the world will not be blackmailed," Bush said, noting that Washington was working with South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

But he warned Pyongyang that "nuclear

weapons will bring only isolation, economic stagnation and continued hardship."

"The North Korean regime will find respect in the world, and revival for its people, only when it turns away from its nuclear ambitions," Bush said, in remarks on North Korea that were much more restrained than some of his other statements over the last year.

Bush had previously offered to reactivate a "bold approach" to North Korea, once it ends the twin nuclear programs which the United States said sparked the crisis.

But administration officials say they will not "negotiate" with the Stalinist state, and will only talk with it about how it can verifiably stand down the nuclear programs.

Bush did not call on the United Nations Security Council to take up the issue, though other lower-level US officials have called for such a move.

Pyongyang has warned that it will see any sanctions imposed by the council as a declaration of war.

The crisis was triggered last October when

US envoy James Kelly confronted the Stalinist state during a visit to Pyongyang with US claims that North Korea had launched an enriched uranium program in violation with a 1994 anti-nuclear deal with Washington.

Despite North Korea's denials, the United States suspended fuel aid to Pyongyang, which responded late last year by reactivating the mothballed Yongbyon plutonium producing nuclear complex and expelling UN monitors.

Even as Bush spoke however, there was a new blow for hopes to end the crisis.

South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung's envoy Lim Dong-Won left Pyongyang Wednesday after failing to meet Kim Jong-Il, officials said.

"After arriving in Seoul at 12:40 p.m., the envoy will brief President Kim on the outcome of his visit to North Korea," a South Korean official said.

Before going to Pyongyang, Lim said he would try to receive a direct response from Kim Jong-Il to Seoul's proposal for a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issue. **AFP**

WORLD BRIEFS

Heavy fighting near Afghan border

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Heavy fighting between US-led coalition forces and some 80 armed extremists near Afghanistan's southeastern border with Pakistan has left 18 people dead, the US military said Tuesday. US and Norwegian warplanes began bombing Adi Ghar mountain north of the border town of Spin Boldak Monday, in what US military spokesperson Col. Roger King said was the biggest US confrontation in Afghanistan since last March. King said between 250 and 300 US troops, accompanied by a small contingent of Afghan soldiers, Tuesday continued to fight intermittently with the group. There were no coalition injuries. Spin Boldak security officer Manna Obaidullah told AFP late Tuesday that fighting ended around 5:30 p.m., but US Col. Michael Shields, a coordinating commander, said the operation could go on for days. The gunmen were suspected to be supporters of renegade former Afghan premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's anti-government Hezb-i-Islami party, King told reporters at Bagram, a US base north of Kabul. **AFP**

Court rejects Berlusconi's demand

ROME—Italy's highest court on Tuesday rejected Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's demand to have his corruption trial moved from Milan to another city because he claimed the judges were biased, judicial sources said. The nine judges of Italy's top appeals court gave their ruling after two days of complex legal argument to transfer the case from the Milan tribunal to Brescia, 100 km away. Berlusconi faces trial on charges of bribing judges to approve his company Fininvest's 1985 takeover of food company SME. **AFP**

Rare brain disease pinned on river

AUCKLAND—River water may be the cause of a rare and terrifying brain disease on the Pacific island of Guam which leaves its victims virtually motionless shells, according to scientists. While previous theories on the cause of *lytico-bodig*—now known as *amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/parkinsonism-dementia* (ALS-PDS)—said it may have been the result of locals eating giant bats, a new study says bacteria found in rivers may be to blame. ALS-PDS has in the past wiped out some 10 percent of Guam's indigenous Chamorro population while up to 70 percent may be predisposed to it. Similar diseases have struck on the Kil Peninsula in Japan and the southern lowlands of West Papua (Irian Jaya) in Indonesia—each around 3,500 km from Guam. ALS-PDS attracts intense scientific interest because it is regarded as key to finding a cure to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of mad cow disease. **AFP**

New diamond certification system

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council urged all countries Tuesday to join a new diamond certification system designed to end the illegal trade nourishing many conflicts in Africa. The 15 council members voted unanimously for Resolution 1459, expressing strong support for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which takes effect Sunday, one month after it was formally established. Launched in South Africa in 2000, the scheme was adopted by 52 countries at a conference at Interlaken, Switzerland, on Nov. 5, many of them members of the Southern African Development Community or the European Union. The system is designed to determine the origin of any diamond, to satisfy customs officers it was not illegally mined in areas of conflict in countries such as Sierra Leone, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. **AFP**

Israelis endorse Sharon party's tough stance

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party rode to victory in an Israeli election on a wave of support for his tough line with Palestinians, humiliating leftist parties that had pursued Middle East peace deals.

Greeted by flag-waving supporters who burst into song, Sharon claimed victory early on Wednesday and urged parties to join him in a broad government to meet the twin challenges of what he called terrorism and a possible Gulf war.

Labour Party leader Amram Mitzna conceded defeat in a telephone call to Sharon soon after voting ended on Tuesday.

Partial results showed Likud storming back into power, replacing Labour as the biggest party in parliament.

Labour endured its worst-ever defeat, falling to around 19 seats from 25 in the 120-seat parliament, reflecting Israelis' widespread outrage at the party's having put its trust in Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to make peace.

Hundreds of Israelis have been killed in scores of suicide bombings carried out by mil-

itants at the forefront of a 28-month-old Palestinian uprising for statehood.

Labour's former partner in peace moves, the leftist Meretz party, was shown winning around 6 seats, down from 10, while Likud soared to 37, up from 19 in the current Knesset.

Further underscoring divisions, the upstart Shinui party swept into third place vowing to take away from ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties their historical role as political power brokers able to demand cash and benefits for their constituencies.

Although Sharon did not deliver the peace and security he promised when elected in February 2001—and few expected him to do so now—he flaunted his credentials as a veteran general and experienced politician to convince Israelis he was the best person to lead them through such troubled times.

President Moshe Katzav was expected to ask Sharon to form a new government to tackle a deep economic crisis and the Palestinian revolt for an independent state.

"This is a heavy blow to a peaceful settle-

ment. The Israelis have committed a historical mistake which they and the Palestinians will regret," Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

Sharon's campaign aide Lior Horev told Reuters that the 74-year-old prime minister would within three weeks forge a government of right-wing, religious and centrist parties that could give him up to 68 seats in the 120-member parliament.

Then, perhaps after a war in Iraq and with peace moves on the horizon, Sharon could firm up his government by persuading Labour to join, Horev said.

Sharon fears forming a right-wing coalition that could put Israel at odds with chief ally Washington over such issues as building Jewish settlements on occupied land, while the Bush administration prepares for possible war with Iraq.

The future of peacemaking with the Palestinians will be shaped largely by which parties join a coalition, and a government joined by ultra-nationalists could harden Sharon's already tough line against the Palestinian uprising. **Reuters**



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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Gov points to Moro rebels in bombing

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol pointed to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its alleged ally, the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, for Tuesday's bombing here that left 21 people injured.

"The MILF is the only group capable of making improvised bombs of that magnitude," Piñol said.

But Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya said he was more inclined to believe that the Pentagon was behind the blast.

He said gang members in Central Mindanao have been under heavy attack from the military since the Jan. 9 clash in Columbo, Sultan Kudarat.

On Monday, at least 17 Pentagon members and their alleged allies in the MILF have been killed after soldiers launched operations in remote villages of Damulog in Bukidnon.

Denial

The MILF denied its forces were involved in the encounter.

As of yesterday, the military was conducting pursuit operation against the Pentagon wing headed by Tahir Alonto and his brother Abdullah.

"Every time we hit the Pentagon or sometimes the MILF, pretty soon, there are retaliations or diversionary moves," Abaya told the INQUIRER.

Abaya said it was also possible that extortionists were behind the blast.

"There has been a number of extortion letters received by commercial establishment owners in the said area coming from lawless

elements," Abaya said.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, denied Piñol's claim.

"There's no formal investigation yet, why put the blame on us," Kabalu said, admitting the MILF has experts in bomb making but "we do not attack non-combatants."

Piñol said there was a possibility that the attack was carried out by the same group responsible for the Oct. 11 bombing here last year that killed eight people.

"We are also looking into the possibility of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group's involvement in this... this could be their way of retaliation after their fall in Columbo, Sultan Kudarat recently," Piñol said.

Last week, the military also launched massive offensive operations against suspected Pentagon members in Barangay Kisu-

paan in President Roxas town. The military reported it seized high-powered firearms from the bandits who allegedly sought refuge in MILF camps.

But Chief Supt. Jose Dalumpines, police chief for Central Mindanao, said it is yet too early to connect the Kidapawan bombing with previous bomb attacks and point to a group as behind it.

No claim

No group has owned responsibility for the attack.

"But we have to come up with a conclusion immediately because the honor and dignity of the police are at stake here... the fastest that we can because we cannot afford to delay it," Dalumpines said.

It was learned that before the bomb, made from an 81 mm mortar, exploded outside the LBC

center on Quezon Boulevard here, another explosion happened in front of a restaurant in Dayao Street, which is some 100 meters away from the LBC center.

Senior Supt. Casimero Medes, city police chief, said it was simply a tire explosion. But people in the area said they saw two men on board a motorcycle lobb something that looked like a grenade under a parked Isuzu Crosswind.

A cellular phone center in front of the restaurant was damaged. The owner said a tire explosion was not enough to create such a damage. The explosion left a 10-inch diameter crater.

No one was injured in the first explosion.

Minutes later, the bomb placed inside a box at the LBC center exploded and triggered a fire. Piñol said the bomb did not have a timing device.

"It was a pressure-type bomb. What triggered the explosion was the attempt of the police bomb disposal member to open the package," Piñol said.

Badly injured was SPO4 Hermelegio Belasa, who held the box before it went off.

Mayor Luis Malaluan said the first explosion could be the suspects' diversionary tactic to keep the police "busy." Malaluan also said there was indeed laxity on the part of the police and warned of a revamp.

Piñol shared the mayor's views.

"I'm disappointed with the security situation of the city. The city has a lot of money to spend for security purposes. They should make use of their security funds to prevent incidents like this," the governor said. *Julie Alipala, Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



Suspects in crime 'bite the bullet' in Cebu City

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—In the past two weeks, policemen have gunned down eight suspected criminals here. Four of them were killed while the others were wounded.

The latest was on Tuesday morning when a policeman shot and wounded a suspected robber who had just taken the cellular phone of a student along Ramos Street.

Jose Tabada, 32, was shot in the leg after he tried to stab PO2 Angelito Yuan of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) with a pair of scissors.

Yuan reportedly saw Tabada run-

ning along Ramos Street after he robbed Lara Kristine Pacaroo, a medical student at Velez College.

On Monday night, a policeman shot and killed Bonifacio Catipay, 21, an alleged snatcher.

SPO2 Mario Gacqing and other members of the Miscellaneous Team of the Mabolo police station were roving in Sitio San Isidro, Mabolo when they saw Bonifacio holding a gun.

Gacqing claimed that when they confronted Catipay, the suspect attempted to fire his gun at them.

He said he immediately pulled out his gun and shot Gutang in the stomach. The suspect was brought to the Cebu City Medical Center where he died at about 4 a.m. Tuesday.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, Police Regional Office chief for Central Visayas, defended his men, saying the suspects were killed in legitimate operations.

He denied insinuations that there was an order to summarily execute suspected criminals, saying the policemen were just doing their jobs.

The series of shooting of suspected criminals was noted since Jan. 15. Policemen from the Theft and Robbery Section (TRS) shot and killed two suspected robbers on Echavez Street in Barangay Tinago, Cebu City.

The policemen claimed they merely acted in self-defense after suspects Ronald Dumanacal and Rey Sumapig tried to shoot them.

They said they approached the two after passengers of a public utility jeep pointed at Dumanacal and Sumapig as the ones who just robbed them.

During the Sinulog Mardi Gras on Jan. 19, a policeman shot and killed a drunken man who held hostage his own son.

PO2 Benjamin Carticiano of the Guadalupe police killed Manuel Saceda after Saceda shot him. The bullet grazed the policeman's left eye.

Two days later, Senior Insp. Ambrosio, TRS chief, also shot suspected snatcher Eduardito Morales along P. Del Rosario Street after he saw the suspect snatch the necklace of a woman.

Morales was shot in the left ankle. The woman, however, did not file a complaint against the suspect.

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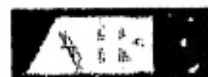
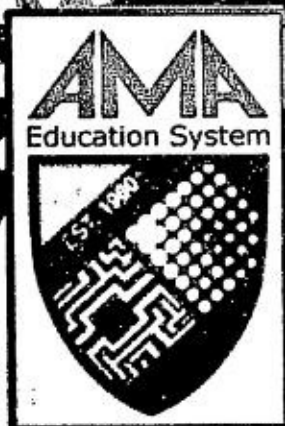
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ROUNDUP

Bacolod fire

BACOLOD CITY—Four establishments were destroyed while three others were damaged in a fire that hit a commercial complex in Barangay Singcang this city on Monday night. Nobody was reported injured but some P9.12 million worth of property were destroyed, said city fire marshal Jerry Candido. He said the fire was triggered by sparks from a nearby electric post that fell on the ceiling of the Camarada Karaoka Bar at about 6:25 p.m.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Amok kills 2

DAVAO CITY—A man went berserk aboard a passenger ship from Cebu as the vessel was about to dock at the Sasa Wharf here on Jan. 21. A passenger and a crewmember died after Victor Capitan bludgeoned them to death with a lead pipe. Capitan, a resident of Jose Abad Santos town, Davao del Sur, said he had a short temper after he fell victim of illegal recruitment and it became worse when he was not treated well by the crew of MV Filipino Princess. He said he was having lunch when a crewmember, without any word, cleaned his table.

Witnesses said Capitan grabbed a lead pipe and hit crewmember Baylon Dumayaga in the head and body. Fely Jabico, 52, one of the passengers, tried to intervene, but the suspect also hit her. She died of injuries in the head and the body. While bludgeoning Jabico, Rey Palar, 38, another crewmember came in to stop the suspect but he was also hit. Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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LEGASPI CITY—A total of 51,812 poor families or 284,966 beneficiaries, have availed of the Medicare Para Sa Masa program in Bicol. The PhilHealth regional office here announced that in addition, 24,088 poor families would be covered through the Priority Development Assistance Fund of congressmen. PhilHealth assistant vice president Orlando Iñigo Jr. said 8,822 families from 10 municipalities in Masbate and four other towns in Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, and Albay will soon be enrolled in the indigent program. Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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SAN ROQUE DAM

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Girl, 14, sues Ilocos Sur board member for rape Cebu cop cries foul on wrong warrant rap

CAOAYAN, Ilocos Sur—A provincial board member is facing charges for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl in a beach resort in Ilocos Norte on Dec. 19 last year.

The complaint for rape and child abuse against Teodoro Salvador, member of the provincial board of Ilocos Sur, was filed by the girl's parents at the prosecutor's office in nearby Batac, Ilocos Norte, on Monday.

But the official dismissed the accusations, saying these

were "fabrications."

"Tuntuntunen mi ti hustisia para ti anak mi (We are seeking justice for our daughter)," the victim's mother told the INQUIRER.

The victim is a second year high school student and the youngest of four children of farmer parents.

The girl, in her complaint, said she met the board member when she visited a balikbayan relative here last Dec. 14.

Salvador, during that meeting,

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The girl said she told the board member that she preferred to have the eyeglasses. Salvador allegedly then asked the girl to meet him on Dec. 19 in Vigan City where he promised to give her both the eyeglasses and the cellular phone.

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The girl's mother said they noticed that the girl appeared weary a day after the rape took place. It was only on Jan. 17 when the girl told her family that she was raped and only after an elder sister confronted her, the mother said. Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

By Jolene R. Bulambot

PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Four policemen are in trouble for irregularities in securing a search warrant that led to the arrest of a suspected member of the Hong Kong Triad and two others in September 2001.

The Office of the Military Ombudsman approved the filing of criminal charges against SPO3 Perfecto Codiñera, SPO2 Fernando Velarda, SPO2 Ronilo Nabua and PO3 Richard Valencia for violation of Article 129 of the Revised Penal Code.

Article 129 refers to "search warrants maliciously obtained and abused in the service of those (warrants) legally obtained."

Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio approved the recommendation of the Office of the Visayas Ombudsman that found the policemen to have conspired in securing a search warrant from a court that has no jurisdiction over the case of alleged Triad member Giovanni "Nanan" Gimenez, his brother Joivan and driver Victor Ceniza.

The three are now facing charges in court after Codiñera, then head of the defunct Cebu Detective Bureau, and his men seized 337.97 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) inside Gimenez's Starex parked outside his condominium unit in Barangay Mabolo, this city.

The search was made on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Idelfonso Suerte of the Regional Trial Court based in Barili town, about 65 kilometers south of this city.

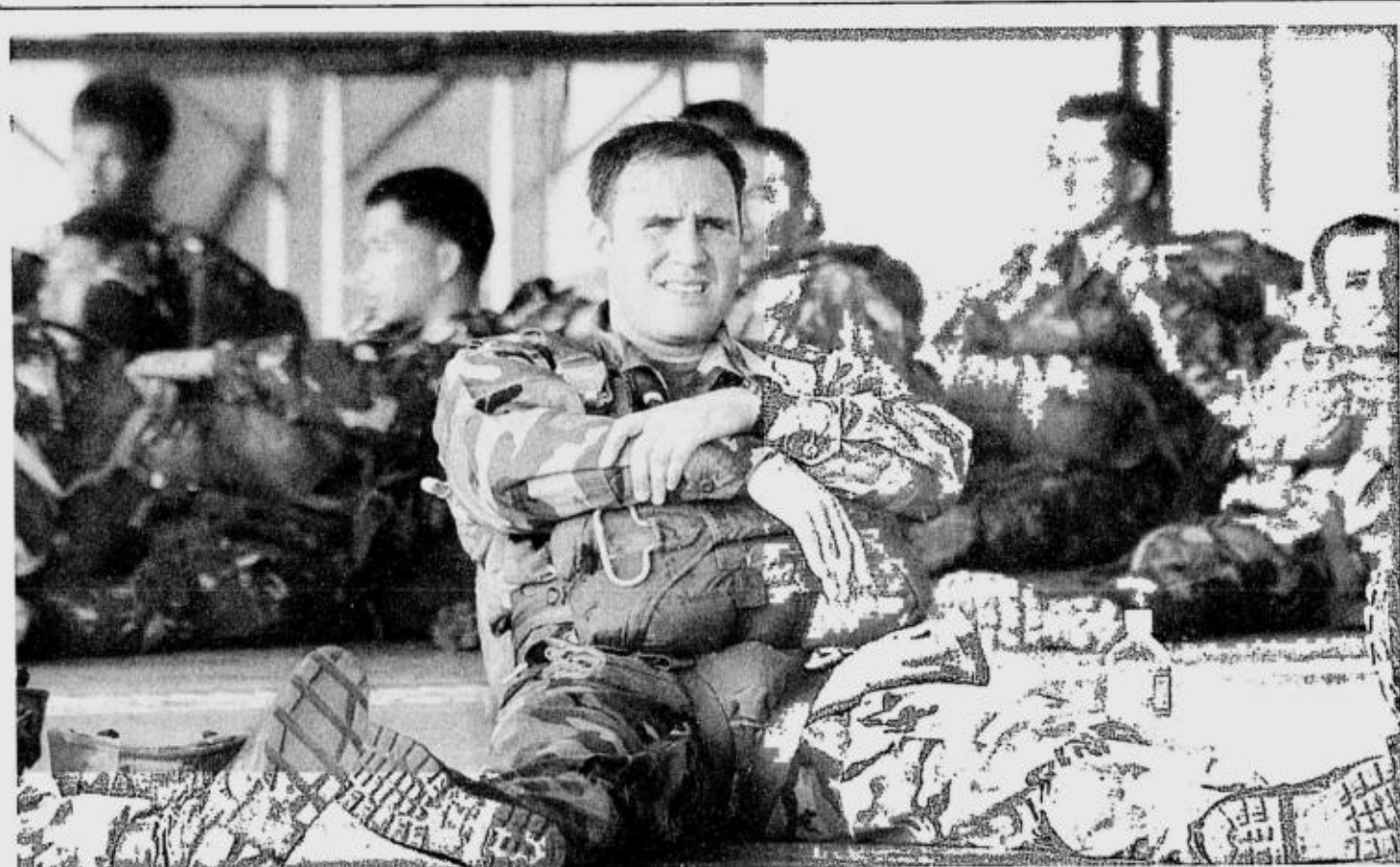
In a resolution, Ombudsman Prosecutor Luis Aquino said the policemen erred when they secured a search warrant on Sept. 6, 2001 from a court based in Barili town when the subjects of the warrant were residents of Cebu City.

"The four respondents conspired together in the procurement of a search warrant without just cause," said Aquino in his six-page resolution dated July 29, 2002.

A "general warrant" was issued because it did not specify the place to be searched.

Aquino, however, cleared them of graft charges.

Codiñera questioned why the warrant enforcers would be charged while the judge who issued the warrant was cleared by the Supreme Court. With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau



COZY

An American soldier takes a breather prior to an aerial exercise in Clark, Pampanga for the latest war games between US and Filipino troopers whose main objective, according to official line, is to improve the Filipino soldiers' skills at doing battle against terrorism.

DENNIS SABANGAN

DPWH asked to probe revival of Baguio flyover project

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio's old timers have asked Public Works Secretary Bayani Fernando to investigate the proponents of an P88-million flyover project here, who, they said, have "deceptively obtained a government environmental clearance by using falsified documents."

Virginia de Guia, spokesperson for the group Team Baguio, said regional officials of the DPWH applied for an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the project but used the specifications for a smaller and "less ecologically-risky" infrastructure.

A DPWH Cordillera official admitted to the INQUIRER in Decem-

ber that the 296-meter long flyover was using an ECC that was intended for a 178-meter-long flyover design.

But the official said the DPWH central office's design unit changed the plans weeks after the regional office had obtained its clearance.

The official said the original design drawn up by engineers here would have imperiled motorists driving down from Marcos Highway.

"The (first design) gave vehicles too little maneuvering room. Vehicles would be hurtling off the flyover if you followed that design," the official said in Filipino.

But De Guia said the investigation should unearth the reasons the DPWH officials continue to harness the same project using savings from a 1997 Japan Bank for International Cooperation loan that financed the modernization of the Marcos Highway.

"Now that (Fernando) is conducting his investigation of (erring DPWH employees), he can start looking into this project, which is being rushed," De Guia said.

She said the project resurrected a P140-million Baguio underpass project in 1999, which Team Baguio opposed due to its environmental impact on the city's

water table. The underpass project also relied on savings from the Marcos Highway rehabilitation.

"Why the same project is being resurrected after all these years is strange enough for (Fernando) to investigate," De Guia said.

Last week, a DPWH crew demolished a police precinct on Marcos Highway and marked out trees for cutting in a nature park at the Baguio General Hospital Compound.

The new flyover design required a wider embankment, which would eat into the nature park, the DPWH source said. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marker for Ilocos Norte sand dunes disappears

By Cristina Arzadon

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—A concrete marker on the declaration of Ilocos Norte sand dunes as a National Geological Monument in Barangay Calayab here has been missing, unnoticed by local officials.

Residents immediately raised the suspicion that the marker could have been stolen by private property developers around the sand dunes.

Put up primarily by the National Committee on Geological

Sciences, the marker was unveiled on Nov. 26, 1993.

The sand dunes cover about 85 square kilometers and stretch for at least 40 kilometers from Currimao town crossing over to Laoag City and Pasuquin town.

They are believed to have been formed a thousand years ago through the combined action of wind, waves and shore currents.

Stable sand dunes play an important part in protecting the coastline, a web site on Philippine sand dunes reported.

People familiar to the marker here described it to be made of plain concrete with bronze etchings containing the inscriptions of the declaration.

The marker was erected conspicuously along a village road going to the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel. Only the marker's concrete elevated platform remained at its site.

In front of the marker's site is a vast residential property owned by Malaysian Paul Ng, chief executive officer of the Laoag International Airlines.

Ng, who is married to an Ilo-

cano businesswoman, recently hogged the headlines when one of his commercial planes crashed in Manila Bay killing 19 passengers.

A long-time resident could not say when the marker went missing but said it used to stand there while Ng was preparing the groundwork for a proposed hotel that he planned to put up next to his property.

Ng, along with Cambodian investors, had planned to put up the Holiday Hotel in early 1995. He later abandoned his plan when he failed to get clearances

from the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to build the hotel.

Then Mayor Cesar Ventura raised the need for Ng to secure an ECC because the proposed hotel site was in the sand dunes.

Ng's neighbors said the hotel site was leveled off while construction materials started arriving.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Ng for comment. "Whoever took away that marker had a deliberate attempt to mislead the people," said a resident.

ROUNDUP

Bacolod fire

BACOLOD CITY—Four establishments were destroyed while three others were damaged in a fire that hit a commercial complex in Barangay Singang this city on Monday night. Nobody was reported injured but some P9.12 million worth of property were destroyed, said city fire marshal Jerry Candido. He said the fire was triggered by sparks from a nearby electric post that fell on the ceiling of the Camarada Karaoke Bar at about 6:25 p.m.

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By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

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But De Guia said the investigation should unearth the reasons the DPWH officials continue to harness the same project using savings from a 1997 Japan Bank for International Cooperation loan that financed the modernization of the Marcos Highway.

"Now that (Fernando) is conducting his investigation of (erring DPWH employees), he can start looking into this project, which is being rushed," De Guia said.

She said the project resurrected a P140-million Baguio underpass project in 1999, which Team Baguio opposed due to its environmental impact on the city's

water table. The underpass project also relied on savings from the Marcos Highway rehabilitation.

"Why the same project is being resurrected after all these years is strange enough for (Fernando) to investigate," De Guia said.

Last week, a DPWH crew demolished a police precinct on Marcos Highway and marked out trees for cutting in a nature park at the Baguio General Hospital Compound.

The new flyover design required a wider embankment, which would eat into the nature park, the DPWH source said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Marker for Ilocos Norte sand dunes disappears

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—A concrete marker on the declaration of Ilocos Norte sand dunes as a National Geological Monument in Barangay Calayab here has been missing, unnoticed by local officials.

Residents immediately raised the suspicion that the marker could have been stolen by private property developers around the sand dunes.

Put up primarily by the National Committee on Geological

Sciences, the marker was unveiled on Nov. 26, 1993.

The sand dunes cover about 85 square kilometers and stretch for at least 40 kilometers from Currimaos town crossing over to Laoag City and Pasuquin town.

They are believed to have been formed a thousand years ago through the combined action of wind, waves and shore currents.

Stable sand dunes play an important part in protecting the coastline, a web site on Philippine sand dunes reported.

People familiar to the marker here described it to be made of plain concrete with bronze etchings containing the inscriptions of the declaration.

The marker was erected conspicuously along a village road going to the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel. Only the marker's concrete elevated platform remained at its site.

In front of the marker's site is a vast residential property owned by Malaysian Paul Ng, chief executive officer of the Laoag International Airlines.

Ng, who is married to an Ilo-

cano businesswoman, recently hogged the headlines when one of his commercial planes crashed in Manila Bay killing 19 passengers.

A long-time resident could not say when the marker went missing but said it used to stand there while Ng was preparing the groundwork for a proposed hotel that he planned to put up next to his property.

Ng, along with Cambodian investors, had planned to put up the Holiday Hotel in early 1995. He later abandoned his plan when he failed to get clearances

from the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to build the hotel.

Then Mayor Cesar Ventura raised the need for Ng to secure an ECC because the proposed hotel site was in the sand dunes.

Ng's neighbors said the hotel site was leveled off while construction materials started piling up.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Ng for comment. "Who ever took away that marker had a deliberate attempt to mislead the people," said a resident.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Quezon
folk fight
for their mangroves

FROM aboard a chopper, what used to be a vast mangrove forest now looks like a map of fishponds.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Infanta, Quezon

NESTLED near the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges, Infanta, a sleepy town in northern Quezon facing the Pacific Ocean, used to be a vast mangrove forest. Much of the natural habitat of marine life is now gone because of human greed and apathy toward the environment.

Maximino Pujeda, president of the Infanta Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, lamented the loss of wide mangrove areas in the coastal villages. In Barangay Binulasan alone, more than 200 hectares of mangrove areas have been destroyed since the frenzy of fishpond construction activities began in the 1980s, Pujeda said.

Fishpond operators from Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Metro Manila swarmed the place during the 1970s, Pujeda said, and even without permits, they cut and destroyed the mangrove forest. Most of the concerned residents were then ignorant of the laws governing marine breeding and the legal procedures for fishpond operators, he said. "We just presumed that they were allowed by the government to convert our mangroves into their own private fishponds."

Fishpond

Lawyer Asis Perez, head of the

environmentalist group Tanggol Kalikasan in Southern Tagalog, attributed the boom in fishpond construction to past government programs that encouraged fishpond development.

Government financing institutions offered easy loans to fishpond developers during the 1970s, he said. "They thought then that mangroves are not important, because there's no money in it. The notion that the mangrove is a breeding ground of fish was not yet popular during that time."

Recent reports posted in the Internet affirmed Perez's observation. Many governments and industries classified mangrove forests as "wastelands" or useless swamps. This erroneous designation has made it easy to exploit mangrove forests as cheap and unprotected sources of land and water for shrimp farming.

Records show that Quezon had 14,940 hectares of mangrove areas in 1969, but this figure de-

clined to 923 hectares in 1991.

This means that the destruction has deprived the market of 75,212.5 tons of fish and other species each year, according to Tanggol Kalikasan.

The remaining mangrove areas are found in Infanta, Real, General Nakar, Tagkawayan and Pagbilao towns fronting Tayabas Bay, and in the Polilio island groups in the Pacific Ocean area, Perez said.

Reports from the islanders showed that a big portion of their mangrove areas was lost when most of the trees were cut and turned into charcoal for direct shipment to Japan for industrial use, Perez said. "But we were told by the residents that when liquefied petroleum gas was introduced for home use, the pressure on mangrove tree cutting for charcoal slowly eased."

Demolition

Concerned residents of Infanta have started to fight back, not only to seek justice but to regain their lost mangrove areas and protect those remaining.

Fed up with apparent government indecision, some 1,500 townsfolk demolished two years ago the dikes of a 15-hectare "illegal" fishpond reportedly being applied for leasehold by former Caloocan City Mayor Macario Asistio, a close friend of ousted

President Joseph Estrada.

Armed with spades, bars and wood stalks, the villagers dug for about an hour, accompanied by chants of prayers. With the dikes gone, water flowed once more on its natural course toward neighboring ponds down to the Binulasan River.

Asistio filed a robbery complaint against at least 41 persons led by the late Infanta Mayor Roldan Velasco before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Infanta-General Nakar. He alleged that the respondents and at least 500 others stole fish, shrimps and crabs from the pond and released the fingerlings into the Binulasan River.

The affected fisherfolk complained that the fishpond project had destroyed the area's natural mangrove system, which sustained the day-to-day existence of residents in the area.

Marine life

According to fishermen in the coastal villages fronting the Pacific Ocean, northeast monsoon rains and winds prohibit them from venturing into the high seas. Strong winds and heavy rain from frequent typhoons whip up big waves, making it difficult and dangerous for anyone to go out into the sea to fish.

To make both ends meet for the fisherfolk's families, they rely on mangrove areas for marine prod-

ucts—shellfish, prawns, crabs and small fish for food to eat and to sell to buyers in the poblacion.

The destruction of the mangroves to make way for fishponds has moved the villagers to tears.

"The mangroves that we planted and nurtured to full maturity have given us life's sustenance in return," Carlos Nollado, barangay chair of Binulasan, said.

Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, head of the Prelature of Infanta, said the indiscriminate cutting of mangroves had deprived the people of Infanta of their source of livelihood.

"We should be the ones to benefit from what we have, but these outsiders are robbing our people of the legitimate source of income and sustenance. There are now lots of outsiders here who are only after their own selfish interests without taking into consideration the welfare of the old inhabitants in this place," Labayen told participants of Tipan (covenant), a biannual multisectoral assembly of local government officials and non-government groups from Real, General Nakar, Infanta and Polilio.

On Sep. 13 last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued an order rejecting the fishpond application of Asistio and denying his appeal "for lack of merit." The former mayor submitted a mo-

tion for consideration, but on Dec. 10 last year, Malacañang finally dismissed the plea on the same grounds.

For the past two years, Tipan, a Church-based coalition of local multisectoral organizations founded by Labayen and Rep. Rafael Nantes, have stayed on the frontline in the battle against Asistio's illegal fishpond project. Local environment officials have already declared the fishpond project illegal in the absence of an approved fishpond lease agreement from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and also due to the illegal cutting of mangroves.

United

The President also ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to restore the mangrove areas to their original state.

However, Armando Rutaquio, DENR Quezon chief, said he preferred the place to still remain as a fishpond to be managed and operated by the residents. "Besides, most parts of the destroyed area are no longer possible to be planted with mangroves. They are too deep already."

Once the police and the military have successfully enforced the ejection order, the DENR will come in and assess what is best for the area, he said.

Young student needs kidney transplant

By Marlon Ramos
San Pedro, Laguna

LIKE any other 18-year-old, Amable Cabantac dreams of having a college degree. He could have been an aircraft mechanic by now, but a life-threatening illness uncommon for his age is keeping him from realizing his dream.

Amable was in junior high in 1999 when doctors found that he was suffering from glomerulonephritis, an end-stage kidney disease. Medication had kept him from sick bay, but this did not last long, according to his parents, Francisco and Martina.

In the past five months, Amable has undergone dialysis twice a week, but the procedure has gradually drained his family's resources. Francisco claims they have already spent P250,000.

"Parang nauupos na kandila ang anak ko kapag hindi siya na-dialysis (My son is like a melting candle when he fails to undergo dialysis)," Francisco said.

Amable also suffers from complications of the disease. He now has asthma, poor eyesight and pneumonia. Since December, he has been in and out of the hospital. Just two weeks ago, his parents brought him to the emergency room early morning because he had difficulty breathing.

"Hindi po ako makahinga kapag walang dialysis. At saka namamanas ang katawan ko (I cannot breathe comfortably whenever I miss dialysis. And my body gets swollen)," Amable related.

Dilemma

Francisco, 48, is an ordinary wage earner of Jaka Inc. Being the lone breadwinner of the family, he finds it really hard to sustain his youngest son's medication. His 45-year-old wife has long been afflicted with a heart disease, and this has limited her from doing taxing chores.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, Amable and his mother take a one-hour ride from their home in San Pedro, Laguna to the Medical Center Muntinlupa (MCM) for his dialysis treatment. A session costs about P2,600, excluding the cost of filters and some P300 worth of drugs that Amable has to take daily.

"To augment my son's costly medical needs, I have even claimed half of my retirement benefits. This amount, however, has already been consumed," Francisco said.

Francisco has asked government agencies and good Samaritans for financial help. His bosses, ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and his daughter Katrina, gave him P20,000. Francisco now owes money to many friends and relatives.

The capital they used to put up

a small sari-sari store has also been exhausted. Francisco has even sold some of his home appliances and other belongings.

But the financial burden has not discouraged Francisco from hoping that his son will soon recover. This, though, requires an expensive operation. Francisco's faith in God has kept him strong.

Costly operation

Dr. Elizabeth Sebastian, Amable's nephrologist at the MCM, said the young man's immune system had been badly affected by the lingering disease.

"Dialysis may have saved Amable's life, but it will only make him dependent on it. In due time, it will drain all their resources because he will need it (dialysis) more frequently," Sebastian explained.

A kidney transplant is very much needed, she stressed. Since Amable's condition has worsened, the transplant must be done at once, she said.

Lately, Amable's blood pressure has increased erratically, and Sebastian is worried. Only a kidney transplant will help him recover, the doctor added.

"A kidney transplant has a very high success rate in the country as the technology and medicines are already available in the local market," she said.

The transplant is also favorable, considering her patient's young age, Sebastian said. Amable may fully recover after the transplant and can go on with his normal life, she reiterated.

Unlike others, Amable's case is irreversible, the doctor said. Amable's kidney has become too small and dysfunctional. It is unable to produce creatinine, a substance needed to nourish the organ.

The transplant necessitates a compatible donor, most preferably from a relative of Amable. Finding a donor doesn't bother Francisco, but how to raise the money for the operation. "Where will I get P300,000? I have already run out of options. We don't have any idea how to get that money," he said.

A kidney transplant costs about half a million pesos in private institutions, excluding medications. The cost is half that amount if the operation is done in a government hospital. Fortunately, doctors at the National Kidney Institute have expressed willingness to help.

Sebastian maintains that this amount, in the long term, is much reasonable than having Amable go through dialysis for a longer time. Maintenance drugs are also much cheaper, she said.

More concern

Still, there's a more immediate concern. Amable's young body could not support a fistula, a device needed for dialysis. His blood vessels are too small. Instead, a catheter is placed in his neck as a temporary access for hemo-dialysis. Both sides of the neck have already been utilized, and the holes are prone to infection.



AMABLE Cabantac undergoes dialysis under the care of nephrologist Dr. Elizabeth Sebastian at the Medical Center Muntinlupa.

MARLON RAMOS

"Amable's body has not been producing enough red blood cells. From time to time, he has to have blood transfusion. We also have to inject erythropoietin to help him fight infection," Sebastian said. This procedure charges the Cabantacs around P2,000, aside from medicines.

Sebastian explained that Amable must go through a surgery to install a gortex graft in the arms. This tubular cord will serve as entry for the fistula.

Though Sebastian already advised this as necessary months ago, the family cannot afford the P25,000 operation. This amount doesn't include the doctor's fee and medicines.

Amable must now also have frequent dialysis sessions. Sebastian requires him to undergo dialysis three times a week for him to overcome infections.

This has made Francisco even more distressed: "Maintaining

Amable's twice-a-week dialysis is already a burden for us. How much more if it becomes more frequent?"

Appeal for help

True to his name, Amable remains gregarious and loving to his parents. The courageous teenager hasn't showed any signs of despair throughout his ordeal, said Sebastian.

Although misery sets in, Amable maintains his optimism. He still looks forward to meeting and playing with his friends again.

"With the help of my parents, I know I'll be able to play basketball again. As soon as I recover, I will go back to school and finish my studies. I want to work abroad so that I can repay my parents," Amable mentioned.

Good-hearted individuals who wish to help Amable can get in touch with Francisco Cabantac at Tel. No. 899-5531.

Bush: Full force vs Saddam

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and broadcast live around the world on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila).

For the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks transformed him into a wartime president, Bush faced America amid serious questions about his leadership. According to latest polls, most Americans don't approve of his handling of the economy and only a slight majority support his policies on Iraq—an area where Bush enjoyed the support of more than 80 percent a year ago.

No need to wait

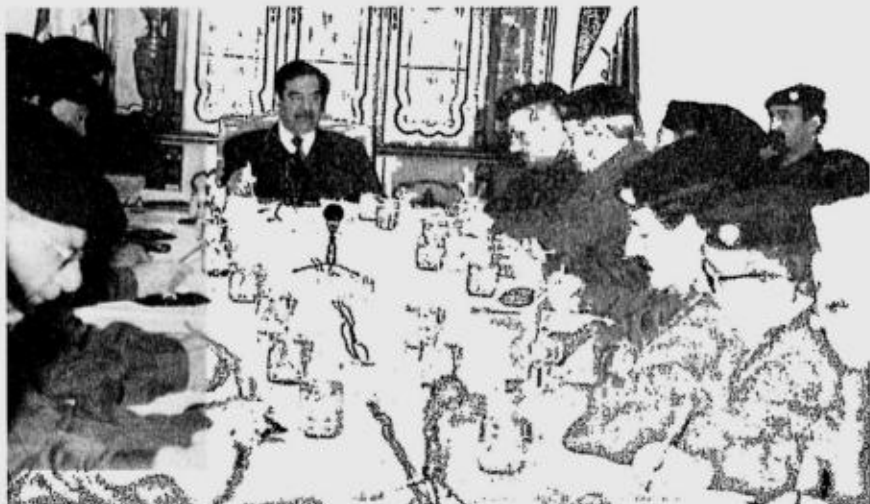
In his speech, Bush said there was no need to wait until Saddam's threat had become imminent. "Since when have terrorists and tyrants announced their intentions, politely putting us on notice before they strike?"

Bush said he could not allow the threat to fully and suddenly emerge. "Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not a strategy, and it is not an option."

The State of the Union speech did not contain what Bush claimed was new evidence to support his charges against Iraq, but he said Secretary of State Colin Powell would go to the UN Security Council on Feb. 5 to present "information and intelligence about Iraq's illegal weapons program, its attempts to hide those weapons from inspectors and its links to terrorist groups."

"We will consult, but let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm for the safety of our people, and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him," Bush said.

"All free nations have a stake in preventing sudden and catastrophic attacks, and we're asking them to join us, and many are doing so. Yet the course of this nation does not depend on the deci-



JOINT meeting of his political party and the Revolution Command Council is convened by Iraq President Saddam Hussein on Jan. 26 in this handout photo from the Iraqi News Agency.

sion of others."

Key allies, including France and Germany, oppose military action in Iraq and want Bush to give UN weapons inspectors more time.

List of charges

Hoping to sway reluctant allies, Bush presented a laundry list of Saddam's alleged offenses, some of them newly revealed to the public.

Citing earlier findings of the United Nations, Bush said Saddam had not accounted for 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas and VX nerve agent and 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical weapons.

He said the British government had learned that Saddam recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa for his nuclear weapons development program.

Citing US intelligence sources, Bush said the Iraqi leader had also tried to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes for the production of nuclear weapons.

He said the testimony of three Iraqi defectors indicated that Iraq had several mobile biological

weapons labs in the 1990s that were now unaccounted for.

He said Saddam had assembled the world's most dangerous weapons and used them on entire Iraqi villages, leaving thousands of his own people dead, blind or disfigured.

"If this is not evil, then evil has no meaning," Bush said.

Utter contempt

Bush said the United Nations recently gave Saddam his final chance to disarm but the Iraqi leader instead showed "his utter contempt" for the United Nations.

He clarified that the job of the 108 UN inspectors was not "to conduct a scavenger hunt for hidden materials across a country the size of California... (but) to verify that Iraq's regime is disarming."

"It is up to Iraq to show exactly where it is hiding its banned weapons, lay those weapons out for the world to see and destroy them as directed. Nothing like this has happened," Bush said.

Instead, intelligence sources reported that thousands of Iraqi personnel were at work hiding



BATTLE drill on Jan. 28 aboard the USS Nassau, an amphibious assault ship operating at an undisclosed location in the Gulf.

AP/WIDE

AP

documents and materials from UN weapons inspectors. Iraqi intelligence officers are also posing as scientists that inspectors are supposed to interview, he added.

"The dictator of Iraq is not disarming. To the contrary, he is deceiving," the president said.

Motive

"Year after year, Saddam Hussein has gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks, to build and keep weapons of mass destruction—but why? The only possible use he could have for those weapons is to dominate, intimidate or attack," Bush said, warning that Saddam could "resume his ambitions of conquest in the Middle East."

According to a senior US official, Powell will tell the Security Council that Iraq is not only hiding chemical and biological weapons from UN inspectors but also smuggling in technology for long-range missile and nuclear weapons programs.

"The world has waited 12 years for Iraq to disarm," Bush said. "America will not accept a serious

and mounting threat to our country, our friends and our allies."

At the end of the Gulf War 12 years ago, Saddam agreed to disarm of all weapons of mass destruction.

In a message to the Iraqi people, Bush told them: "Your enemy is not surrounding you; your enemy is ruling you. And the day he (Saddam) and his regime are removed from power will be the day of your liberation."

Ties to al-Qaida

The speech was delivered amid intense security as lawmakers, Cabinet members, military leaders and Supreme Court justices gathered in the House chamber. About 1,500 people massed on the Capitol lawn to protest Bush's policies, ranging from a possible war in Iraq to his approach to health care.

Bush, however, said there was another serious threat facing the American people: Saddam's ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Citing intelligence sources, secret communications "and statements by people now in custody," Bush renewed his assertion that Saddam

was aiding and protecting terrorists, including members of al-Qaida.

"Secretly, without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists or help them develop their own," Bush said.

While Bin Laden and other key terrorists had eluded capture, the president said the United States had caught many key commanders of al-Qaida and suggested others had been killed—"met a different fate," in his words.

Bush did not repeat his assertion that Iraq, Iran and North Korea were an "axis of evil," a phrase he coined in last year's address. But he chided Iran for repressing its people and said North Korea had deceived the world about its nuclear ambitions.

Bush announced a federal center where all terrorism intelligence, foreign and domestic, would be analyzed. CIA Director George Tenet will oversee the operation, two administration officials said.

Bush also proposed spending \$6 billion to make vaccines against anthrax, botulinum toxin, Ebola and the plague more readily available.

Other agenda

The first half of Bush's hour-long address was devoted to domestic policy, a reflection of his desire not to let Iraq overshadow a presidential agenda geared toward the 2004 reelection campaign.

The heart of Bush's package is his \$674 billion plan to revive the economy and a \$400-billion, 10-year proposal to overhaul the Medicare health care program for the elderly, sprinkled with initiatives to combat AIDS and produce energy efficient cars.

He also proposed a \$15-billion plan for emergency AIDS relief in Africa and the Caribbean, a "work of mercy" that he said would save millions from falling victim to the deadly virus. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Some cheered, others worried

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Sweden's Prime Minister Goran Persson called Bush's State of the Union address "an important signal," adding that it showed the US president was serious about having "the international community behind him."

German lawmaker Gernot Erler, a ranking member of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats, warned that "the doorway through which disarmament could be achieved without war is getting narrower and narrower."

But he also said Bush's speech put the onus of disarmament on Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and that he "could still turn things around with a dramatic act of opening up."

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, one of Washington's staunchest allies, welcomed the plan to bring more intelligence before Security Council.

"That puts (the issue) right at the feet of the Security Council where the matter belongs," he said.

Australia already has sent commandos and a Navy transport ship to the Persian Gulf to prepare for possible military strikes on Iraq.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark was more cautious. She said the Bush speech indicated that "we are going to see the United States step up its persuasion efforts at the UN Security Council" over Iraq, adding that everything indicated Washington would act unilaterally.

But she told National Radio that most nations would be reluctant to move with the United States until UN weapons inspectors had come to a definitive conclusion.

Some countries, including China—Asia's only permanent member of the UN Security Council—had no immediate official response.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin welcomed Bush's announcement that the United States would present evidence on Feb. 5 that would show Iraq was maintaining a secret weapons program in violation of UN resolutions.

Once the intelligence is evaluated, De Villepin said it would be up to the United Nations to decide on the next step. France has repeatedly voiced opposition to any unilateral action by the United States against Iraq.

"France has taken a clear position since the beginning and the majority of the world community not only understands this position but shares it," he said in an interview with RTL radio.

In Japan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda called Bush's speech "a forceful, strong message" and said disarming Iraq was a concern of the whole world.

India and Pakistan had no immediate official reaction. However in Islamabad, religious hard-liners said Bush's speech was a reshaping of weak arguments for war.

"Opposition to America is increasing at every step. There will be a reaction not only against America but against governments

that have become tools in its hands," said Liaqat Baluch, deputy chief of the pro-Taliban Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Time running out

At the United Nations, top UN inspectors urged Iraq to produce fresh evidence about its weapons programs and cooperate fully, warning that time was running out and that this was probably the last chance to avoid war.

One day after reporting to the Security Council on the resumption of inspections two months ago, Hans Blix and Mohamed El-Baradei said Tuesday that a change in Iraq's attitude toward disarmament and inspections was the key to peace.

"The ball is entirely in Iraq's court," El-Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told CNN. "Iraq now has to prove that it is innocent... They need to go out of their way to prove through whatever possible means that they have no weapons of mass destruction."

Blix told The Associated Press that he would have asked for more time for inspections "if I were confident and sure that we would find answers in some months time—but I think that it still calls for a changed attitude on the part of the Iraqis, and I'm therefore not asking for it."

Nonetheless, he said, "I would certainly welcome and accept that we continue the work that (the inspectors) have started. We just got up to speed."

The 15 Security Council mem-

bers have had time to check with their capitals, and diplomats said the closed-door meeting on Wednesday should provide the first indication on where the 15 governments stand.

This is critical for the United States if it wants UN authorization for any military action because it needs a minimum of nine "yes" votes and no veto by a permanent member.

The five permanent members remain divided on how much time Iraq should be given to comply.

France, Russia and China called for inspectors to be given additional time although Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Tuesday that "if Iraq resists these inspections... I do not rule out that Russia may change its position."

Britain and the United States, who have sent troops to the Persian Gulf, have made clear that Iraq must start cooperating "proactively" very quickly or face military action—without UN authorization if necessary.

US lawmakers split

In Washington, many lawmakers stood to applaud Bush's call to the nation for a possible war against Iraq, but others were skeptical.

Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, for instance, announced he would introduce a resolution to require the president to go before the US Congress and present convincing evidence of an imminent threat before the United States sends troops to war with Iraq.

But other Democrats, such as

the moderate John Breaux, said the speech was not a declaration of war, adding he and his colleagues were relieved to hear that Secretary of State Colin Powell was to provide evidence to the UN Security Council on Feb. 5 regarding Iraq's defiance of UN resolutions.

Republicans scoffed at Kennedy's idea.

"It's another dilatory tactic," Republican Sen. George Allen said. Bush, he insisted, had "laid out a very... compelling and convincing case" on Iraq.

"I think it was close to the final warning to Saddam," Allen added. "There are just so many times we can turn the other cheek."

Some, like Sen. Joe Biden, the top Democrat in the Senate foreign relations committee, felt Bush's address to the nation was short on details, particularly on how the United States would deal with a post-Saddam Iraq.

Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel, who serves on the same committee, felt Bush had given a sober inventory of the threats and challenges that the United States faced, speaking of the war on terror, North Korea as well as Iraq.

"I thought he hit it just about right," he told reporters afterwards.

Democratic Sen. John McCain, a member of the armed services committee, told CNN that Bush needed to "provide more information" before putting American lives in harm's way, but that he had "made a good case to the American people." *Reports from AP and AFP*

RP workers offered double pay

By Norman Bordadora

CERTAIN contractors working the oil fields at the Kuwait-Iraq border have offered to double or triple the wages of Filipinos and other contract workers there in an effort to lure them to stay even in the event of a war between the United States and Iraq.

Ambassador Roy Cimatu yesterday announced this development and expressed concern that the Middle East Preparedness Team had yet to speak with the 20 or so Filipinos at the border to convince them not to accept the offer.

"We have yet to meet with them or even make contact. This is my worry," Cimatu said in a news briefing at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"Knowing the brave nature of Filipinos, we expect them to make that deal," he said, and aired an appeal to "enterprising" Filipinos in the area not to venture to the oil fields anymore.

The oil fields belong to the Kuwait Oil Co. and are located 150 km north of the city proper, well into the desert, Cimatu said. The US military installations in Kuwait are also found in the northern sector.

10-hour dash to Jordan set for 80 Pinoys in Iraq

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In a week or so, they would decide if they would wait out the war or fly home to the Philippines.

This is the gist of the contingency plans drawn up by the Middle East Preparedness Team headed by Roy Cimatu, former Armed Forces chief and now special envoy.

"Everything is already in place," Cimatu told reporters after briefing President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

He said the Filipino workers themselves, their employers and the host governments had been advised of the contingency plans.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owva) has set aside P1 billion for the contingency plans. Cimatu said P250 million had been made available to Philippine embassies in the "most affected countries." The amount will be used for the shelter, food, water

and transportation of workers.

"Of all the workers in the Middle East, I think the Filipinos are the most prepared, most motivated and most confident because they know that the plans are in place," Cimatu said.

Domestics at greater risk

But he said the country's domestic helpers in the Middle East could be at greater risk than other overseas Filipinos in the region if war broke out.

Cimatu said his team was having difficulty passing on details of the contingency plans to Filipino domestics and caregivers because of the nature of their job.

"Unlike other overseas Filipino workers who return to their dormitories where we can talk to them after hours, the domestic helpers remain in the homes of their employers," Cimatu said.

He added that domestic

helpers also seemed to find it difficult to attend meetings in the Filipino communities. "Only a few of them manage to attend even if these meetings are done during their day off."

This problem is most pronounced in Kuwait where 65 percent of the OFWs in the country are domestic helpers, according to Cimatu.

He said the embassy would get in touch with Filipinos in the oil-rich country mostly through text messages. Domestic helpers, who don't have cell phones, can get advisories from the daily Tagalog program aired by the state-owned radio station.

"In Kuwait initially we will stay put. In the event (the situation) deteriorates, we have a relocation site within Kuwait, which is hundreds of kilometers south of the capital city, very far away from Iraq," Cimatu said. "But at the mo-

ment I still don't foresee such movement though we are ready."

Virgilio Angelo, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said the Middle East Preparedness Team was eyeing a vast farmstead in Nuwaisib, a town about 90 kilometers from Kuwait City, as a relocation site for Filipinos.

The site is equipped with toilets, running water and other facilities for hygiene. A building that can house 6,000 people is also on the premises.

In Iraq, embassy records listed 80 Filipinos—30 embassy personnel (eight of whom work in other embassies) and 50 personnel of the United Nations.

The embassy has vehicles on standby to be used in case of relocation. "Even before the strike in Iraq, they should move already," he said. "They're prepared."

Cimatu said the Jordanian government had allowed the Fil-

ipinos to temporarily stay in Amman. But in seven to 10 days, they have to decide whether to stay or go home to the Philippines.

Ten Filipinos, who are married to Iraqi nationals, have not committed to joining the relocation since they do not want to leave their families behind.

Cimatu said Filipinos in other countries surrounding Iraq such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Turkey would stay put.

"I believe that they will be safe. (They) will be required to be on heightened alert but they will stay put in their respective places of work," Cimatu stressed.

Early warning

Cimatu was confident of getting advance warning about a US attack, not from the US govern-

ment but from the country's diplomatic "sources" and "friends."

Since his appointment as special envoy in November, Cimatu had flown to several Middle East countries to touch base with the embassies and Filipino communities.

He would fly again on Saturday to check on preparations in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which hosts 850,000 Filipino workers.

The retired general said foreign governments were amazed at the country's meticulous preparations. A Kuwaiti official was said to have commented that Filipino workers were "very lucky because they have a government that takes care of them."

"Modesty aside, all the embassies in Baghdad look up to our charge d'affaires as their leader. If we move, they will also move. We're their gauge, their barometer," Cimatu said. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 30, 2003



RP supports US case at Security Council

From page A1

Despite Bush's declaration that he will consult with the UN Security Council on Feb. 5, war is "imminent" in Iraq, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Unilateral attack

Asked about the possibility of a unilateral US attack on Iraq, Bunye said: "This would be an entirely new situation," and Ms Macapagal would consult with her security advisers.

The US government has sought "general assistance" from the Philippines in case of military action in the Middle East.

In the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan denounced the State of the Union address of US President George W. Bush.

"This is warmongering of the first degree," Pangilinan said.

"There is no smoking gun and for a country that has time and again proclaimed the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty,' this is most disappointing," he added.

He said the war would create more hardships for Filipinos.

Don't be bullied

Even with UN support, the Philippines must not take part in the war on Iraq, according to Sen. Manny Villar.

"Don't give too much importance to Bush's speech. Let us not be bullied by any country to get into a war. Nobody wins in a war," said Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee.

He said not taking part in the war would be the country's best defense against the displacement of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) in the Middle East. There are some 1.4 million OFWs in the region.

Sen. Edgardo Angara asked the government to put in place a three-point contingency plan as the war would lead to massive loss of jobs and tighter oil supply.

Angara said the preparations should focus on the evacuation of workers from Iraq and other areas to be affected by the war, ensuring uninterrupted oil supply, and finding jobs for the dislocated workers.

Oil contingency plan

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the government had activated an oil contingency plan that requires refiners to hold a minimum 30-day inventory of crude and products by Feb. 3.

The country consumes about 330,000 barrels of oil a day, most of which comes from the Middle East. Saudi Arabia accounts for 32 percent of the shipments and Iran 25 percent.

In the House of Representatives, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Ms Macapagal should not drag the country into a "most immoral, unjust and inhumane war against Iraq."

"(Her) name will be even more infamous in history if she pushes through with her plans to support the US war against Iraq. She will be a party to a most vicious campaign against civilians and guilty of abetting crimes against humanity," Beltran said.

Unnecessary war

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay described Bush's plan to attack Iraq as "aggression" and an "unnecessary war."

"It (war) will affect the economy of the whole world, crude prices will go up and set off a chain reaction that will affect all of us," said Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense.

Pichay said Iraq was the wrong target because Osama bin Laden was the "source" of the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

The Philippines should insist that any action against Iraq be undertaken with UN approval, according to Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Marcos, vice chair of the House foreign relations committee, said the government should not be bullied by the United States into supporting a unilateral action against Saddam Hussein for the sake of the OFWs in the Middle East.

'Sick man'

An Iraqi embassy official in Manila urged the government to back efforts seeking to avert a US attack on his homeland, warning that while the conflict may not reach the Philippines "it will hurt your economy."

"Of course the rockets will not reach the Philippines but in different ways it will hurt your economy," Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Samir Abdul Masih Bolus said at a forum on the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City.

\$50 per barrel

He mentioned soaring oil prices and massive dislocation of Middle East-based Filipino workers. Later in an interview, he said the price of oil could reach \$50 per barrel. "This is what all the economists have said."

Bolus said it was up to Philippine officials to make a stand on the US-Iraq crisis "according to the interest of the Filipino people."

"We should not let this moment come," he said, referring to the impending war. "There are a lot of countries working to solve this peacefully. We should all back them, encourage them."

Speaking before students and members of the academe, Bolus called Bush "a sick man" whose war plan on Iraq "has nothing to do with terrorism or weapons of mass destruction but control over oil."

He drew chuckles from the audience by modifying his description of Bush: "He's sick, yes, but he's not a man." With reports from Norman Bordağora and AFP



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Red splinter group vows to fight NPA Bandits release

From page A1

abuses on innocent civilians. This can be seen in many areas in Mindanao where many tribal groups have declared a *pangayao* or tribal war against the NPA because they could no longer bear the abuses of the NPA," said Alejandro Quino, chief of the military operations command of RPA-ABB in Mindanao.

In the Davao provinces alone, the RPA-ABB has at least 200 armed combatants, according to Quino. He also says his group has members in Zamboanga and Cotabato. The claims could not be independently confirmed.

"We are ready to fight the NPA. We are now helping civilian communities, especially tribal groups in Mindanao, to fight and shoo away the NPA from their communities. Our group has enjoyed considerable backing from the civilian communities," he said.

Quino is making the rounds in the provinces in Mindanao "to tell the local government officials of our presence because many thought that our group did not exist in Mindanao."

The RPA-ABB, the military wing of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPMP), is based mainly in Negros.

The RPMP has reportedly agreed to assist the Philippine National Police in enforcing peace and order after its leaders met with then President Joseph Estrada in Baguio in December 1999. Leaders of the group who met with then President Joseph Estrada were Arturo Tabara, alleged chair of the RPMP; Nilo de la Cruz, alleged vice chair; Ike de los Reyes, alleged RPA head in Mindanao; and Manuel Calizo, alleged RPMP executive committee member.

Ocampo

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo claims that the RPA-ABB has become an adjunct of the PNP.

Ocampo said that under the agreement with the government, 100 RPA-ABB members were allowed to keep their firearms.

The RPA-ABB even maintains training camps in Panay and Negros and was promised P500 million for its socioeconomic projects, he said.

De la Cruz hit back at Ocampo, former spokesperson of the CPP-led National Democratic Front, saying that the party-list lawmaker's statements only proved that "he is a spineless and shameless stooge of Jose Ma. Sison." The CPP's founding chair, Sison is acting

New People's Army

Over 10,000*; 27 battalions of full-time Red fighters with high-powered rifles, augmented by thousands in the people's militias and self-defense units of mass organizations**

Nationwide; deployed in 128 guerrilla fronts, including significant portions of 800 municipalities.

Revolutionary Proletarian Army Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB)

Less than 1,000 fighters. 100 members have been given license to carry firearms based on December 2000 peace pact provisions.

The bulk of its forces is in Negros Island; also has reported units in Metro Manila-Rizal area and islands of Samar and Panay.



Sources: PDI Archives

* US State Department, retrieved 01-27-03, from <http://www.state.gov/c/rls/sgpr/2000/2450.htm>

** Armando Liwanag, believed to be nom de guerre of Jose Muna Sison. Retrieved 01-27-03, from <http://www.philippinerevolution.org/cpp/main/2002/2002e01.shtml>

Sources: PDI Archives/ INQGRAPHIC/ Ernie Sambo

as a political consultant of the NDF in the stalled peace talks with the government.

"By mouthing Joma's line of slandering the RPA-ABB, he has lost his self-respect and is virtually losing whatever sympathy we had for him," De la Cruz said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Quino insisted that the RPA-ABB was "not

pro-government."

"We are not waging war against the NPA for the government. Although we are being ordered by our higher-ups to avoid armed confrontation with the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police, it doesn't mean that we are already surrendering our cause to the government," he said.

By Franklin M. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—A Japanese trader held hostage by bandits here was released yesterday afternoon after six days of captivity.

Hazumitsu Hashiba, 48, was released after intense police manhunt operations against his kidnappers, according to Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, police chief for the Caraga region.

"There was too much pressure on them. Maybe that was why they released him," Olario told the INQUIRER.

Hashiba, who hails from Tokyo, was snatched by at least five armed men inside his rented house in Barangay Bunga in Lanuza town on Thursday last week. The victim is engaged in marine products trading.

Olario said the kidnappers were forced to release Hashiba after the police had pinpointed their captive's location in one of the islands in Surigao del Norte.

A local bandit group, led by a former rebel-returnee, was tagged as responsible for the kidnapping.

Olario said the kidnappers had demanded P20 million in ransom in exchange for the release of the hostage, but denied that the money was handed over to them.

"According to Hashiba's wife, they did not pay any amount to the kidnappers," he said.

Surigao del Sur Gov. Vicente Pimentel Jr. said he would never allow the victim's family to pay any ransom.

"Giving ransom will spur kidnappings," Pimentel said.

Hashiba casually walked to the police in San Jose after he was released in a coastal barangay of Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte.

According to Olario, Hashiba was in good condition but appeared weak and tired.

Policemen were still hunting down the kidnappers who were reportedly still hiding in Dinagat.

RP to seek Joma's return

By Jim Gomez

THE PHILIPPINE government is studying how to seek the return from the Netherlands of exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison on murder charges in the absence of an extradition treaty, an official said Wednesday.

Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines founder, and seven communist guerrilla leaders were charged Tuesday in connection with the assassination of a lawmaker two years ago. Sison denied the charges.

"We hope that this will convince the Dutch government that Sison is wanted not for political

but rather for criminal acts," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Even without the extradition treaty, the Philippines hopes Sison could be returned, Bunye said, citing last year's repatriation of a Muslim rebel leader, Nur Misuari, from Malaysia, which has no such treaty with Manila.

The charges against Sison, who has lived in the Dutch city of Utrecht since 1987, are seen as part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's talk-and-fight approach to the 34-year-old Marxist rebellion, considered the main security threat and a key impediment to economic development in the impoverished Southeast Asian nation. AP

Antipolo bishop fathers child, quits

From page A1

and replaced him with Bishop Gabriel Reyes, formerly of the Kalibo, Aklan Diocese.

Reyes was installed as Antipolo's bishop yesterday.

Yalung left for the United States to shield the Church from further shame and scandal involving his romantic ties with a confessant, according to a high-ranking Church official.

His departure will also give Vatican investigators a free hand to look into the matter.

Friends of Yalung confirmed to the INQUIRER that the woman in question had gone to him for "counseling" two years ago.

The source said Yalung left for the US in November after his mistress gave birth.

Only human

"Bishops and priests are also human. In fairness to him, he was very responsible and very realistic. He did not run away from what he did," the source said.

The source also said that the woman was in love with Yalung and was not satisfied with offers of monetary compensation.

When asked if it was true that

the woman was a guest relations officer, the source said: "Whether she's a GRO or a simple woman, she's a woman."

The source said that Yalung resigned after Church authorities conducted an inquiry into rumors that he was having an affair.

According to the INQUIRER source the Church hierarchy tried to hide the news of Yalung's affair, especially before and during the recent 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila.

"But this should be brought out in the open because rumors, innuendos, and other false information are coming out," the source said.

The source added that the Yalung affair has also become a "humbling experience" for the bishops.

Out of character

The Church official expressed surprise about the Yalung scandal saying that the priest was known to be "rigid... Mr. Clean."

"It's out of character, he has a delicate conscience; he avoids scandal," he said of Yalung, who heads the Commission on Biblical Apostolate of the Catholic Bish-

ops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Letter

In a letter dated Jan. 5, 2003 addressed to "the clergy, the religious and faithful of the Diocese of Antipolo," Yalung said in part:

"For my errors, I ask God's mercy and your kind indulgence. For my personal responsibility, I am committed before the Lord and the Church to do the moral duties toward any person or persons who have been affected by my personal mistake."

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Yalung did not mention the specific reason why he resigned his post, but said it involved "quite a few mistakes, some administrative, others personal or relational."

The priest said he left it to God to "be my best judge for my weaknesses and imperfections."

He said he decided to write his parishioners to clear "undue speculations" caused by his "immediate departure" from the diocese in mid-November 2002.

"I left the diocese not to flee, but to let the local Church continue to grow and to serve. I love the Church and the God-given vocation to serve Her," he said, adding that he made the decision to resign from the office months earlier.

"It was a needed step I made with joy and peace and for the good of the Church," he said. "After earnestly involving myself in the ministry of the Church, I thought better that I needed an intense renewal of self in spirituality and on pastoral ministry."

Official reason

The INQUIRER source said that he can't say much about the official reason Yalung gave for his resignation because that communication went straight to the Vatican.

He explained that Bishops—unlike auxiliary bishops, monsignors and priests—"have direct responsibility to Rome, through the Papal Nuncio (Archbishop Antonio Franco)."

He said this was the reason why he cannot be named as a source of this story.

Process of investigation

But he explained that in such

cases like Yalung's, Rome is known to immediately create a committee to investigate the alleged scandal.

"When it comes to Church disciplines, if there are accusations against you, you are asked to go on leave, you are investigated and if proven guilty, you are immediately sanctioned and given appropriate penalty," he said.

Although still a bishop, he said the status of Yalung now is similar to a "preventive suspension" in layman's term.

But he clarified that Yalung did not "surreptitiously leave or abandon his post."

Excelled in studies

Born in Angeles City, Pampanga, on Dec. 3, 1953, Yalung excelled in his philosophy and theology studies that he was sent to the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome to have his licentiate in sacred scriptures.

Later, he earned his doctorate in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

He was sent to the FU Jen Catholic University in Taiwan to learn the Chinese language.

He was ordained a priest in June, 1979 and even became a

papal chaplain, a sign of favor, in September 1991.

Bishop at 40

Yalung also served as rector of San Carlos Seminary in Makati before he was ordained a bishop on March 23, 1994 at 40.

His various other posts included spiritual director and professor of scripture at the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary in Pampanga; vice rector of the Lorenzo Mission Institute in Makati, auxiliary bishop of Manila, episcopal vicar of Makati, and vicar general of the archdiocese of Manila.

He was the second youngest CBCP member.

In October 2001, the Vatican appointed him the second bishop of Antipolo. He was installed on Dec. 3, 2001.

The source said that Yalung, now Antipolo bishop emeritus, might later work in the Vatican.

A number of bishops in the United States, Poland, and Austria, have also resigned in recent years due to a wave of sex scandals that have hit the Catholic worldwide.

GMA wants English back; Erap objects

From page A1

and now wants English restored as the primary means of instruction in the country.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 75th founding anniversary yesterday of the Far Eastern University, the President said Filipinos should keep their English literacy to stay ahead in important fields such as information and communication technology.

"Our English literacy, our aptitude and skills give us a competitive edge in ICT," she said.

But Joseph Estrada will have none of this "werish-wersh."

When asked to comment on Ms Macapagal's new position on English as the language of instruction, the deposed President said Tagalog—a mixture of Tagalog or Filipino and English words in a sentence—had proven effective for him in reaching out to the masses and therefore should not

be discouraged by the government if it really wanted to communicate with the common folk.

"We'd rather be practical than purists. The bottom line is that we get to understand each other," said the former movie actor who had made mangled English his trademark, especially in playing tough-guy, comic roles.

"The best language is still what the people can easily understand," he said.

Estrada agreed that Filipinos needed to learn or improve their English to make themselves more competitive as a work force. But he said there was nothing wrong with using Taglish in public discussions among Filipinos.

"If you use straight English, *baka hindi ka maintindihan agad ng masa* (the masses might not readily understand you)," he said.

"I studied at the Ateneo and can speak straight English, but through Taglish the masses were able to

identify with me," he added, referring to the upper-crust, Jesuit-run school in Quezon City.

Estrada, who since his ouster has harped on his being a supposed victim of a conspiracy among the country's rich, went on to scoff at "elitists" who go so far as to show off their "American accent" while talking with fellow Filipinos.

At present, both Filipino, the national language, and English are used in schools. But the Constitution provides that Filipino be the language of instruction.

Ms Macapagal, however, pointed out that the provision was still subject to a law passed by Congress.

"Therefore, until Congress enacts a law mandating Filipino as the language of instruction, I am directing the Department of Education to return English as the primary medium of instruction, provided some subjects will still

be taught in Filipino," she said.

Filipino First
Ms Macapagal did not give that much importance to English a year ago.

On Aug. 19, 2001, in a speech marking the birthday of Manuel L. Quezon, she said she shared the late ex-president's vision to promote Filipino. She also said that she wanted Filipino to be the primary medium of instruction.

But at the FEU's anniversary rites yesterday, she set the example in English literacy by discussing her education policy in English and speaking only one line in Filipino.

"We must continue our English literacy, which we are fast losing," she said. "I am thus directing [Education] Secretary [Edilberto] De Jesus to reverse this decline."

The President is fluent in Filipino, English and Spanish as well as several dialects. For her speeches, she uses the language

or dialect appropriate to the occasion but does not speak Taglish.

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said she had realized the "reality" that English was the international language.

Countries like China and Japan, whose peoples hardly speak English, are now emphasizing English in their school curriculum, Bunye told reporters.

"In our own case where we are battling for ICT and call centers, there are so many positions but a dearth of qualified people to fill them up because of lack of proficiency in English," he said. "It's a world reality that English is the main language [in the world]."

Technology
In her education policy, the President stressed that technology would be "the foundation of future economic development."

"To prepare our youth to be the next generation of knowledge workers, we must continue to up-

grade math and science teaching in basic education," she stressed.

She also said Filipino students should likewise upgrade their aptitude and skills, "which we are losing even faster than our English."

At the same time, she said, her dialogues with the silent majority showed a clamor to restore good manners and right conduct in the school curriculum.

"I am directing Secretary De Jesus to heed this clamor. Also, we should allow the voluntary teaching of religion in the school premises," she said.

The President also ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways to build in the next 17 months 322 school buildings in the same number of barangays that lack one.

She ordered the DPWH to build smaller school buildings at a cost of P250,000 instead of the usual P700,000. With a report from Volt Contreras

12th Anniversary of the Philippine National Police

FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH INTENSIFIED POLICE ACTION AND REVITALIZED POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THE PHILIPPINE National Police observes its 12th founding anniversary today with solid accomplishments in fighting crime and maintaining peace and order in 2002, and firmly united in its mission to serve and protect our people in the years ahead.

What the PNP has achieved in the past year is the result of a two-pronged strategy: intensified police action in anti-crime operations and revitalized police-community partnerships through interactive feedback mechanisms.

By launching sustained operations against all forms of criminality and

lawlessness and at the same time harnessing full community cooperation in preventing and solving crimes, the PNP under the leadership of Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has moved decisively to restore peace and order throughout the country and to uphold respect for the rule of law which is the bedrock of our democratic system.

As the PNP enters its 13th year, it is determined more than ever to professionalize its ranks, strengthen its capabilities to fight crime and lawlessness, earn the trust and confidence of the Filipino people, and play a vital role in building a strong Republic.

What We Have Achieved

During the past year, the PNP posted remarkable gains in combating organized crime.

The official statistics are in, and they speak volumes about the determination of the police force to dismantle criminal syndicates that rake in millions from their illegal operations and often do not hesitate to kill or maim their victims.

- Kidnapping incidents went down by 32%, with eight kidnap-for-ransom gangs dismantled;

- Carnapping cases went down by 5% compared to the previous year, with 10 carnapping syndicates operating in Metro Manila and other regions neutralized;

- The trade in illegal drugs dealt major blows with the busting of several big-time methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu laboratories and warehouses in Metro Manila and outlying areas;



- Illegal gambling throughout the country also dealt severe setbacks with the police arresting 29,544 persons, including 96 financiers, in 27,334 operations conducted;

- Top Most Wanted Persons neutralized in 2002 reached 152, as compared to 25 in 2001, or a 508% increase;

- Terrorist attacks and bomb explosions prevented in major urban areas throughout November and December, and terrorist suspects involved in a series of bombing incidents in Kidapawan, Zamboanga City and Metro Manila in the latter part of 2002 arrested.

What We Must Do Better In 2003

During the year in review, total crime volume reached 85,786 incidents, or an increase by 11.44% compared to 2001, with 8,789 more incidents. The bulk of these crime incidents were concentrated in the National Capital Region, Central Visayas and Southern Luzon.

Statistics also show a 36% increase in crimes against property in 2002, particularly street crimes like snatching of cellphones, jewelry and other valuables which usually take place in high-convergence and heavily congested areas.

The over-all increase in crime volume, particularly crimes against property, could be traced to a number of factors, such as the lack of adequate police presence in certain areas. But it also indicates that unlike before, more people are reporting crime incidents to law enforcement authorities. And getting more people to get involved in fighting crime, starting with reporting crime incidents to the police, is precisely what the PNP wants to achieve, because it cannot successfully combat criminality and lawlessness without the full support of the community.

New Anti-Crime Measures

After successfully neutralizing kidnapers, carnappers and bank robbers last year, the PNP shall wage all-out war against street crimes in 2003.

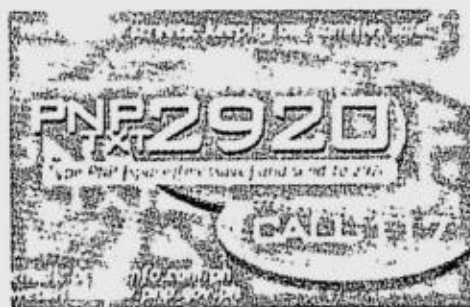
To win the streets from criminals who prey on the unwary citizenry, the PNP has launched several important initiatives.

The first is the Mobile Satellite Police Station. Patterned after similar initiatives in other countries, the Mobile Satellite Police Stations are designed to serve as extensions of the regular police precinct. They are actually bus units each with a personnel complement of 21 policemen and capable of providing investigation, communication, laboratory and other on-board services. They are also equipped with four motorcycles to quickly respond to any emergency. Five of these mobile stations will be initially deployed in Metro Manila.

Apart from keeping city streets safe through the Mobile Satellite Police Stations, the PNP has also launched TXT PNP 2920, a nationwide telephone hotline and text messaging service for expedient response to calls for police assistance and emergencies.

TXT PNP 2920 seeks to encourage the public to provide confidential information on criminal activities, wanted persons, and policemen involved in criminal activities.

This innovative crime reporting mechanism complements Gen. Ebdane's ongoing campaign to purge



the police ranks of abusive, impolite, corrupt and unfit members, or the "Abakadang Pulis", which stands for Abusado, Bastos, Kotongero and Di-Kanais-Nais na Pulis.

O.N.E. PNP

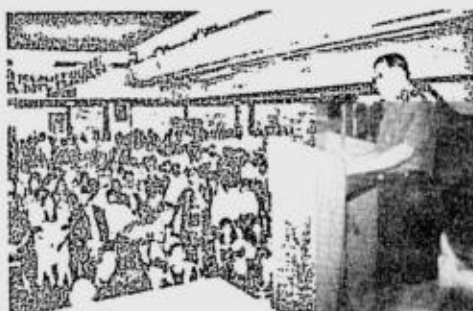
The Mobile Satellite Police Stations and TXT PNP 2920 text hotline are part and parcel of the over-all O.N.E. PNP Program.

Organizational Reform involves not only deploying more policemen to the streets to deter crime but also streamlining the police bureaucracy to ensure better day-to-day management. It also means weeding out the scoundrels and rogues who give a very bad name to the men and women in uniform.

Neighborhood Partnerships are intended to build strong linkages and interactive feedback mechanisms with communities and grassroots organizations so that together, the police and the citizenry can fight crime where it matters: on the streets.

And Education and Training will put our policemen always one step ahead of criminals in our midst. Within the first half of this year, for instance, the PNP Detective School

will have its own home. By giving policemen state-of-the-art training, the citizenry can expect a much improved capability on the part of the PNP to solve crimes.



Winning back the trust and confidence of the community will take time. What is important is that the PNP leadership has taken the first steps in putting the necessary reforms in place.

Towards A People-Driven Police Force

Peace and order concerns of the citizenry, according to a recent survey, are trafficking and use of illegal drugs; theft and robbery; kidnap-for-ransom; rape; murder/homicide; prostitution; carnapping; and terrorism.

In line with the concept of a people-driven police force, the PNP's thrusts in the next 17 months will be to address these specific peace and order concerns.

Anti-crime operations of the PNP will involve putting in place both preventive and pro-active moves; setting targets per quarter; and long-term investments to build police capabilities and strengthen neighborhood partnerships.

Against illegal drugs, the preventive measures will focus on identifying areas where illegal drugs have proliferated; rehabilitation of drug dependents; implementing youth programs; providing skills training; and harnessing neighborhood partnerships. The pro-active moves will include identifying and neutralizing those involved in drug trafficking. The target per quarter is 10% of the identified target list.

Against theft and robbery or street crimes, preventive measures include identification of crime-prone areas; conduct of Oplan Sita and Oplan Bakal; deployment of marshals in high-traffic areas; and encouraging community vigilance through neighborhood partnerships. The pro-active effort includes identifying and neutralizing criminal elements engaged in these nefarious activities. Target per quarter is pegged at 10%.

Against kidnap-for-ransom gangs, the PNP will rely heavily on its three-tiered defense system consisting of community cooperation, professional police action and responsible media coverage. The neutralization of identified kidnapers will continue. The target is 25% every quarter.

Experience shows that rape incidence can be drastically reduced if women can be sufficiently educated on how to avoid being victimized by

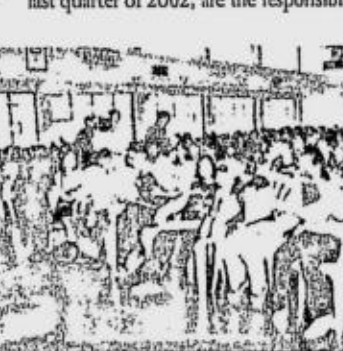
would-be rapists, and if the neighborhood can forge strong partnerships with law enforcers. The PNP's pro-active moves include the establishment of Women's and Children's Desks that provide need-specific action for rape victims. The long-term investment involves two community-oriented efforts: values formation, and education and training.

Murder and homicide can be prevented also through neighborhood partnerships and community vigilance. And as part of pro-active measures, the police must make sure that enough evidence is gathered to build a strong case, and that warrants are served.

Preventive action against prostitution is to tap neighborhood partnerships. The Women and Children's Desks can provide the necessary counseling for women drawn into prostitution because of difficult economic circumstances.

To solve the problem of carnapping, the police must identify crime-prone areas; educate vehicle owners so that they do not end up as victims of carnapping syndicates; give police visitatorial powers over second-hand car parts stores; and strengthen neighborhood partnerships. Pro-active moves include neutralizing identified carnappers. The target of anti-carnapping operations is set at 10% every quarter. Motorcycle-mounted cops are seen as a priority long-term investment to deter carnapping.

Combating bank robberies, of which there were fewer incidents in the last quarter of 2002, are the responsibility



of the Joint Anti-Bank Robbery Action Committee, or JABRAC. Other preventive measures include bank patrols to deter criminal intentions; bank clustering to strengthen perimeter defense for the banks in the same vicinity; and as a given, dynamic neighborhood participation in the anti-bank robbery campaign. The 25% target will be accom-

plished through neutralization of known bank robbers. The need for high-tech equipment and expertise is underscored in anti-bank robbery operations. Finally, terrorism and internal security operations require heightened

Messages

I send my warmest greetings to the Philippine National Police (PNP) as you celebrate your 12th Anniversary with the theme, "Isang Pulisya, Isang Bansa: Matatag na Republika ang Dakilang Adhika."

The anniversary theme you have chosen speaks volumes of the focus and dedication by which the PNP serves our country and our people.

Your words affirm your actions all these years as waged war against crime and fortified partnerships in the community. By harnessing the power of united action, you tap into the strength of collective responsibility that is the most potent antidote to the illegal acts that derail our vision of a stronger Republic.

I congratulate the men and women of the Philippine National Police for living up to the tradition of service that dates back to its gallant forebears. I call on each of you to renew your commitment to provide even better service and greater sacrifice for safer streets and more peaceful neighborhoods.

Naw'ay maging kaisa ko ang Philippine National Police sa pagtataguyod ng isang tunay na matatag at mapayapang Republika. Mabuhay!

(Sgd) Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

I salute the Philippine National Police for 12 years of selfless and untiring public service. Congratulations on your 12th Anniversary.

The men and women of the PNP have the sworn duty to serve and protect the people. This duty cannot be fulfilled if there is no support from the community. In order for the police to fight crime and maintain peace and order, each and every Filipino citizen must help.

They say that in the center of a pyramid lies great power. If we — the government, the police and the community — become the three sides of a pyramid, from this union will emanate a great force that will enable us to manage and control crime in our country. Let us work with each other to fulfill our dream of a peaceful and secure country.

Mabuhay ang Philippine National Police!

(Sgd) JOSE D. LINA JR.
Secretary
Department of Interior and Local Government

Today we mark another milestone in the history of the Philippine National Police, as we look back at another year of service.

The year just passed was full of challenges on several fronts: the increased activity of organized crime groups in kidnapping, illegal drugs, carnapping and other crimes; the real threat of terrorist activity as seen in the bomb explosions in Kidapawan, Zamboanga and Quezon City; the internal concerns on rascals in uniform; and the need to revitalize community involvement in anti-crime efforts.

It also was a year of accomplishments. Major victories were made against kidnapers, carnappers, illegal drug syndicates, and most wanted persons. Further terrorist threats were checked, and we celebrated the holidays in peace and sober merrymaking. Abusive police have been arrested, charged and dismissed. And the energized police-community partnerships are made even stronger by interactive feedback mechanisms such as the nationwide police access line, PNP TXT 2920.

Of the many factors that contributed to our success in 2002, it is the vigilance and participation of concerned citizens led by no less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, that has made the most difference. We offer our heart-felt gratitude, and our renewed commitment to do even better in the year ahead.

I thank the men and women of the Philippine National Police for working as one, and showing our people that together, we really did it better.

Mabuhay ang Pulis ng Pilipin!

(Sgd) HERMOGENES E. EBDANE JR.
Police Director General
Chief, Philippine National Police

vigilance among the citizenry. Prevention measures include securing high-convergence areas; implementing active defense against terrorists; revitalizing neighborhood partnerships; and implementing the Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan. The target is 10% every quarter. Preventive measures consist of identifying and neutralizing terrorist suspects.

Given the nature of terrorism, it is of utmost importance that the police force always keeps one step ahead through continuous upgrading of skills and equipment.

The cross-cutting themes in this peace and order agenda are preventive and pro-active police measures, constant vigilance and cooperation by the citizenry, and values formation and education and training.

Intensified police action and revitalized police-community partnerships are the two key elements that will spell the difference in fighting crime and lawlessness and in maintaining peace and order in our country in 2003 and beyond.



Charge poachers, senators urge Palace

SENATORS yesterday asked Malacañang not to give in to mounting pressure from the Chinese government to release 38 Chinese poachers caught near the Camago Malampaya gas project in Palawan on Sept. 12 last year.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on human rights, urged senators to support his resolution which seeks to pursue the prosecution of the poachers.

"Let the chips fall where they may," Pangilinan said. "The Chinese government must realize that our laws and principles are not bargaining chips to achieving diplomacy."

The Chinese Embassy already sent a note verbale to the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants to release the poachers supposedly as a gesture of goodwill before the Chinese New Year on Feb. 1, Ma. Cleofe Bernardino, executive director of the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), said in a press

conference in Puerto Princesa City.

Nongovernment organizations yesterday launched a two-day signature campaign to stop the release of the Chinese. "We are initiating a massive signature campaign like what we did last time to call on our national leaders not to release the poachers," Bernardino said.

Pangilinan urged Senate President Franklin Drilon to take a firm stand on the issue by asking the Department of Justice to pursue the case against the poachers. At least P50 billion is lost each year due to poaching activities and illegal fishing by alien intruders within Philippine waters, he said.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the committee on foreign relations, said releasing the poachers would only embolden others to conduct illegal fishing and violate our laws.

"We will be the laughing stock of criminals and felons if we let them get

away unpunished," Villar said.

Sen. Noli de Castro pushed for the passage of a bill which he filed requiring foreign poachers to serve the punishment and pay the penalties before any release can be made.

"Respect for the law should be initiated by the leaders in the government. Whoever violates the law should be meted with punishment, whether Filipino or foreigner. Giving of any favor to anyone who committed infraction with the law is a disrespect to our integrity and to every Filipino," said a PNNI statement.

"We will try to gather as much signatures as possible from this very moment up to Friday, and we will send copies of this to all concerned agencies who can help us in our fight against the release of the poachers," Bernardino said. *Reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila, and Gerald T. Tice and Jofelle Tesoro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Crooks after him, says Tesda chief

CROOKS are after him because he demolished a system of corruption.

This was how an official of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) defended his boss, the agency's director general Dante Liban, yesterday.

Liban's ouster is being demanded by Tesda employees for alleged mismanagement and corruption. They are primarily protesting the hiring of 30 "contractuals" who handle such "sensitive operations" as the issuance of artists' record books (ARB), the Filipino performer's "working visa."

They have pointed out that contractuals are from the second district of Quezon City, where Liban used to be the congressman.

Liban is also facing graft charges before the Ombudsman over alleged exorbitant fees being charged performers under a new regulation covering the screening of entertainers. The charges were filed by owners and

operators of testing centers

The Tesda officer assigned to Overseas Performing Artists (OPA) operations, BGen. Nestor Castillo (ret.), said Liban broke up a "deeply entrenched" multibillion syndicate of recruitment agencies, testing venues and testing officers "lording it over" the assessment and certification of entertainers bound for Japan.

Castillo said Liban did this by recruiting more testing officers from the academe and the entertainment industry. This explained why OPAs' passing rate "dramatically dropped" from 95 percent to 55 percent, he added.

Liban, who took over the agency on June 14 last year, earlier said the syndicate was "organic in Tesda," and that it had been operating for at least 20 years.

Other Tesda insiders said that "before Liban," up to P50,000 changed hands for ARBs, leading to the poor image of entertainers bound for Japan, since many of them were hardly qualified.

7 missing fishermen rescued in Vietnam

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The seven Zambales fishermen, who have been missing off the coast of the disputed Scarborough Shoal since December, have been rescued in Vietnam, a Coast Guard official said yesterday.

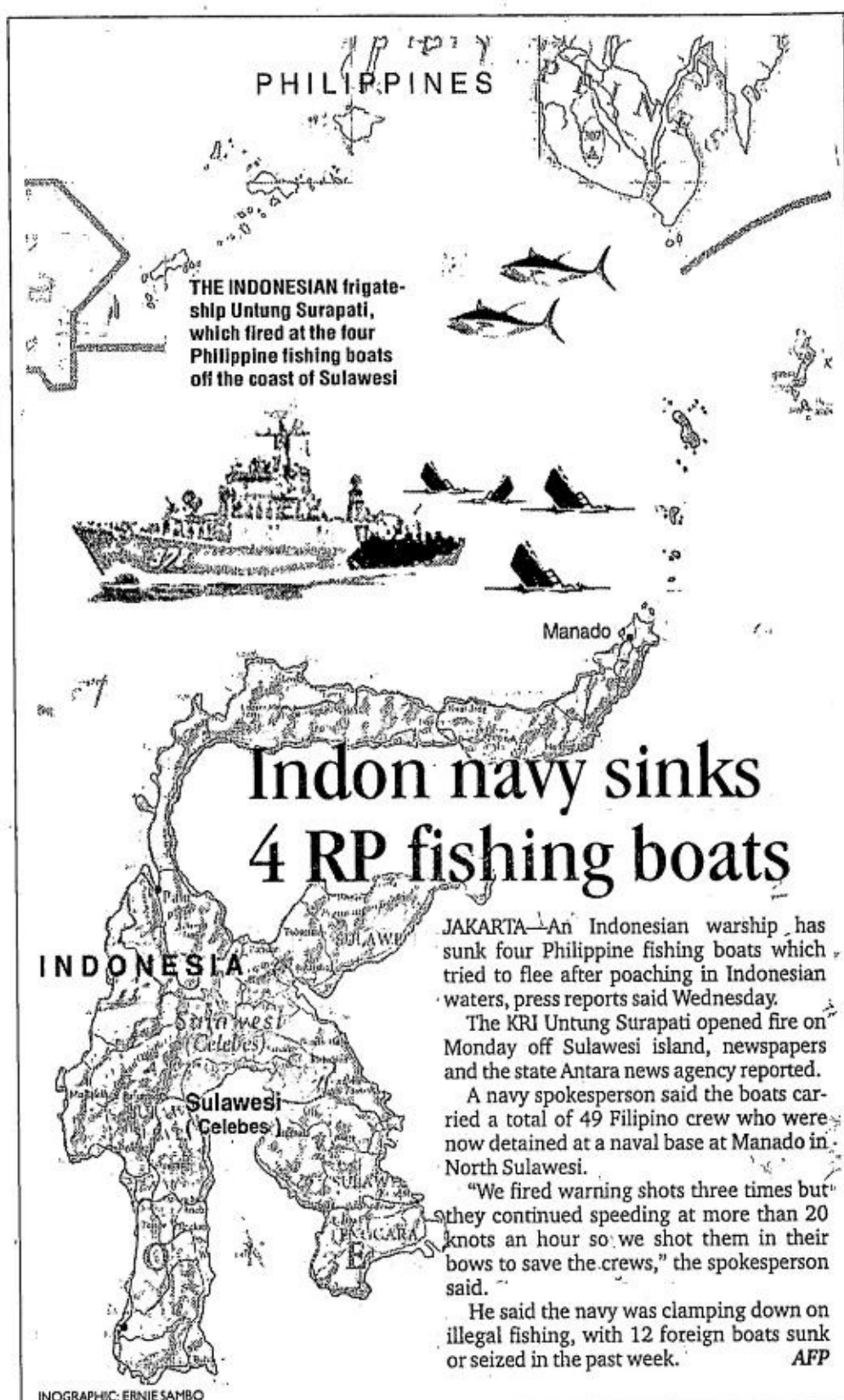
The seven are arriving today on a Philippine Airlines flight from Hanoi.

They were last sighted on board their distressed boat MV Prince PJ drifting on Dec. 24 south of the shoal, some 200 nautical miles from Subic.

The fishermen, all natives of General Santos City, left Subic on Dec. 16.

The seven fishermen sought the help of Philippine consular officials in Vietnam when they reached the Hanoi coast last week.

The details of their rescue were not yet known. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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A CALL TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

Stand for PEACE!

The threat of war in Iraq and its consequences, for us ordinary Filipinos, is growing as the 27th of January U.N. inspectors' report to the United Nations draws near. An attack on Iraq by the U.S. and English forces seems imminent, even without the U.N. Security Council mandate. Their forces are massing by the hundreds of thousands!

Reports from the U.N. estimates that casualties of civilians alone may reach five hundred thousand.

Such possible tragedy seems compounded by the perils facing our OFWs, about one hundred in Iraq proper, more than twenty seven thousand in neighboring Kuwait and about 850,000 in Saudi Arabia, not to speak of further dislocations from their families here.

The impending war will imperil the price of oil, further distort foreign exchange, and devastate the economy. Worse – it may intensify violence and the senseless flow of blood in our land, especially Mindanao.

Many are resigned to hopelessness... of letting things take their own course. The US does not seem to pay attention to the warnings of European and Asian leaders, including the plea of the Pope.

We again confront our own mortality against the odds and seek divine assistance in the midst of powerlessness. In such times, we seek Divine assistance. We are challenged to put our faith and trust in God for his protection.

In these coming critical days, we humbly call on people of various faiths, to unite in prayer to seek divine intervention, to let peace reign in our world. We implore God to enlighten world leaders against war.

We humbly ask leaders of various religious communities and the Filipino people to congregate on Jan. 31, 2:00-6:00 pm at Plaza Miranda for an afternoon of Prayer for Peace. People of various faith expressions, Christians and Muslims included, will come together to pray.

At exactly 6:00 pm, let us light candles in front of our homes, schools and workplaces so the whole world would hear our voices and our stand: Peace in Iraq, peace in the Middle East, and peace in our country. JOIN US!

Jan. 31 Day of Prayer for Peace, against the U.S. war on Iraq



*Join us from 2:00 to
6:00 pm at Plaza
Miranda, Quiapo*

*At 6:00 pm, let us light
candles in our homes,
schools, offices and
churches*

Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.

**Aksyon para sa Kapayapaan at Katarungan * Association of Regional Development Councils *
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan * Bagong Bandila * Justice Not War Coalition * Kairos Philippines *
Muslim Solidarity for the People of Iraq * Promotion of Church People's Response**

Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines * CBCP Episcopal Commission on Inter-Religious Dialogue * CBCP
National Secretariat for Social Action * National Council of Churches in the Philippines

ADLO-KMU * AGHAM * AHW-TMC * AKBAYAN *
Alliance of Concerned Teachers * ALNABISA *
ANAKBAYAN * ANGLO * Article 64 Movement *
AWWALIN * Basilan Solidarity * BAYAN MUNA *
Bukluran * CMP * College Editors Guild of the
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Council for Health and Development * COURAGE *
DAMPA-C5 * DFA * Ecumenical Movement for
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* Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas * Kilusang
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KDML * KPR * Ladies 2000 * League of Filipino
Students * Liga * Lila Pilipina * MATA * Meralco
Employees and Workers Assn. * Migrant
International * Moro Christian Peoples' Alliance
* NAFLU-KMU * National Institute of Policy
Studies * National Union of Students of the
Philippines * OFWs * PAMALAKAYA * PCCO *

PDML * People's Movement for Democratic
Governance * Philippine International Forum
* QC Alliance for Social Change * Reconciliation
for Progress Movement * Religious of the Good
Shepherd * SADAMA * Samahan ng Bagong Pag-
asa * Samahan ng mga Anak ng May
Kapansanan * SAMAKANA * SAMBAYANAN *
Sandata ng Mamamayan Laban sa Kahirapan *
SINAI * Sining Bugkos * SMART-Women *
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KMU * SNME * Social Democratic Caucus *
Student Christian Movement * SYDP * TAMASA
* TSM-QC * UP-CNA * TUGON * ULRTF

For more information, please call the Office of the Vice President at 8333339, 8332148, 8338938

FOUR DIGIT

1 8 1 6
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
6 6 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45

7 10 13 23 27 28

SPORTS

Editor AIS. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

PSC-PSA golf meet today

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission, in cooperation with the Philippine Sportswriters Association, is staging the 2003 PSC-PSA Goodwill Golf Tournament today at the Legends Course of the Southwoods Golf and Country Club. The tourney, an annual event which is on its sixth edition, is primarily aimed at achieving unity, camaraderie, and cooperation among members of the country's sports community.

FIRST GENT'S CIRCUIT

Salvador ties mark, grabs 3-shot lead

SAN Miguel, Bukidnon—Elmer Salvador tamed the Del Monte course by firing a course record-tying 10-under-par 62 yesterday to grab a three-stroke lead after two rounds of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit here.

The 33-year-old Salvador

turned in a sterling performance on a tree-lined course, riddling his scorecard with 10 birdies—five on each nine.

The last time someone played as overpowering as Salvador at Del Monte was a decade ago when the eminent Frankie Miñoza was just starting his climb to international prominence. His version of 62 was made in a leg of the now

defunct Philip Morris Classic.

After posting his best-ever score as a pro, Salvador said it's high time he finally ends a tournament in the circuit presented by San Miguel Beer and organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. as a winner.

The Holy Child School-supported Salvador, whose whopping 14 under par aggregate of

130 established a new 36-hole record in the local pro tour.

Salvador, rebounding from a missed cut stint last week at nearby Pueblo de Oro, was three strokes clear of the fast-starting Cassius Casas who still needed a big rally of birdies on his last two holes to score a 69 and avoid facing a much bigger deficit.

Jong Arcano



SALVADOR: Equals Frankie Miñoza mark.

PDIPHOTO

Rosal paces DHL-NGAP

CANLUBANG—Abe Rosal shot a 5-under-par 69 yesterday to grab a 5-shot lead in the 8th DHL-NGAP Open Amateur golf championship.

Rosal, 40, bucked the winds to shoot down six birdies against a lone bogey.

Rosal has a 7-under-par 137 after 36 holes in this 72-hole event presented by DHL Worldwide Express and WWW Express.

"I'm just playing real well right now," said Rosal, never a winner of a major. "I'm basically a Saturday golfer. That's it. But I've been playing a lot with Tommy (Manotoc) at Calatagan and he's been giving me tips, mostly on basics like grip and posture. And I think it's showing in my game right now," he added.

Juvic Pagunsan, the Southeast Asian Games champion and the winner here in 2001, shot a second straight 71.

"The winds are terrible," said Pagunsan. "From 100 yards out, I use a 9-iron."

Newly-crowned national caddies champion Jonard Rates moved up to solo third at 146 af-

ter a two-under 70. Another former caddies titlist, Jay Bayron, fired a 71 and was at 147 in the company of Jun Bernis (71-76).

Overnight leader Marvin Dumandan followed his 68 with a 79 and slipped to 147.

Rosal started with four straight pars and started to heat up at the 5th hole, where he holed a 10-footer for birdie. That set up a string of four birdies in a five-hole stretch from the 7th—a streak he capped with a snaking 20-footer at the par-3 11th.

Norman out

MELBOURNE, Australia—Barring a remarkable rebound in the next two months, Greg Norman will not be returning to the US Masters.

Norman, the epitome of collapse and heartache at Augusta National, said he received a letter from chair Hootie Johnson that he will not be offered a special invitation.

"Hootie wrote explaining the decision, and I think it is the right decision," Norman said at the Heineken Classic. "I support him 100 percent and respect him for that."

Putting finals tomorrow

THE DISTINCT honor of being crowned the country's putting champion and a bounty of Samsung's top-of-the-line products await the winner of tomorrow's Samsung Putting Challenge at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Seventy qualifiers from the seven eliminations legs held in various courses in Luzon and the Visayas will dispute the title via a two-stage finale in a makeshift course at the practice green of the club.

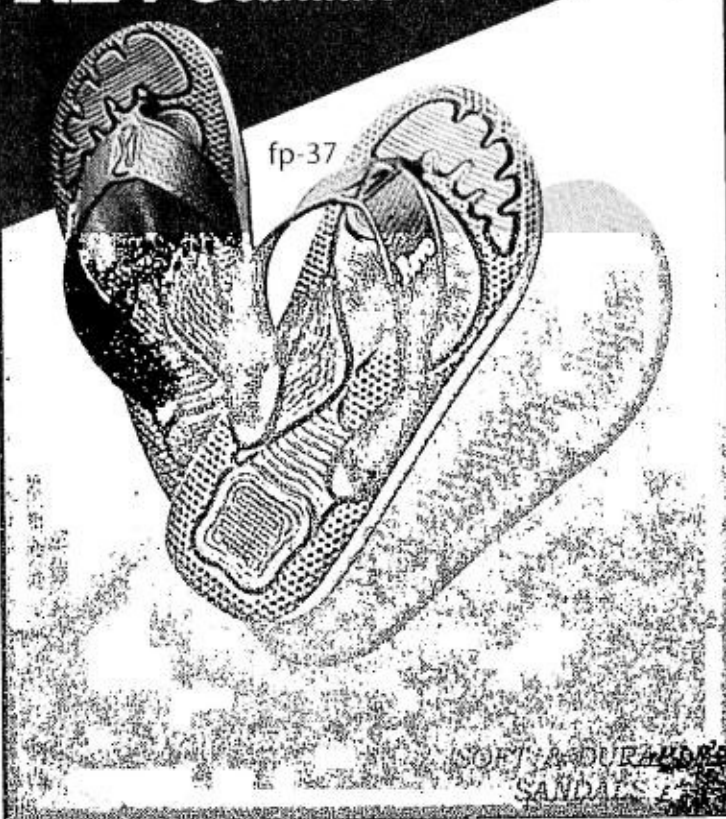
Two world jungolf champions, a former national ladies champion, a club manager, several expats and a horde of weekend duf-

fers out to make the most of the opportunity for instant fame are in the competing roster.

Among those in the hunt for a Samsung entertainment showcase made up of a digital television and home theatre DVD plus a True I cellular phone worth no less than P75,000 are jungolf aces Dottie Ardina and Jayvie Agojo and Wack Wack general manager SP Malbarosa.

Joining the Samsung-backed series as co-sponsors are Taylor Made adidas, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers and Greg Norman Shirts by Planet Sports.

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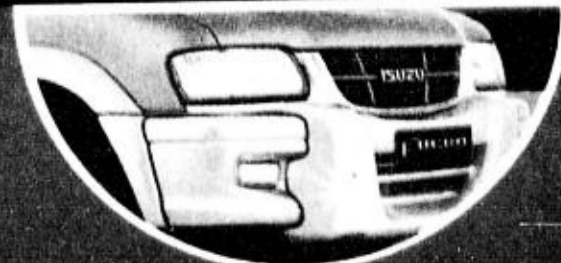
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POC wants to change its charter

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVERYBODY can't seem to resist the cha-cha beat.

The Philippine Olympic Committee joined the trend yesterday when POC president Celso Dayrit ordered the creation of a committee that will review the body's constitution and by-laws.

The move stemmed from the number of questions raised during the general assembly regarding the "seemingly overlapping" jurisdictions of the general assembly and the executive council.

Tennis chief Buddy Andrada protested the legal opinions rendered by fencing official, lawyer Toto Africa, to Dayrit each time he fired questions to the POC boss regarding the powers of the executive council.

Among the questions Andrada raised was the POC executive council's unilateral decision to appoint POC officials close to Dayrit in the powerful Philippine Southeast Asian Games organizing committee.

Africa maintained that the power to make such appointment

was mandated to the executive council by the POC constitutions. He, however, failed to cite specific provisions for it.

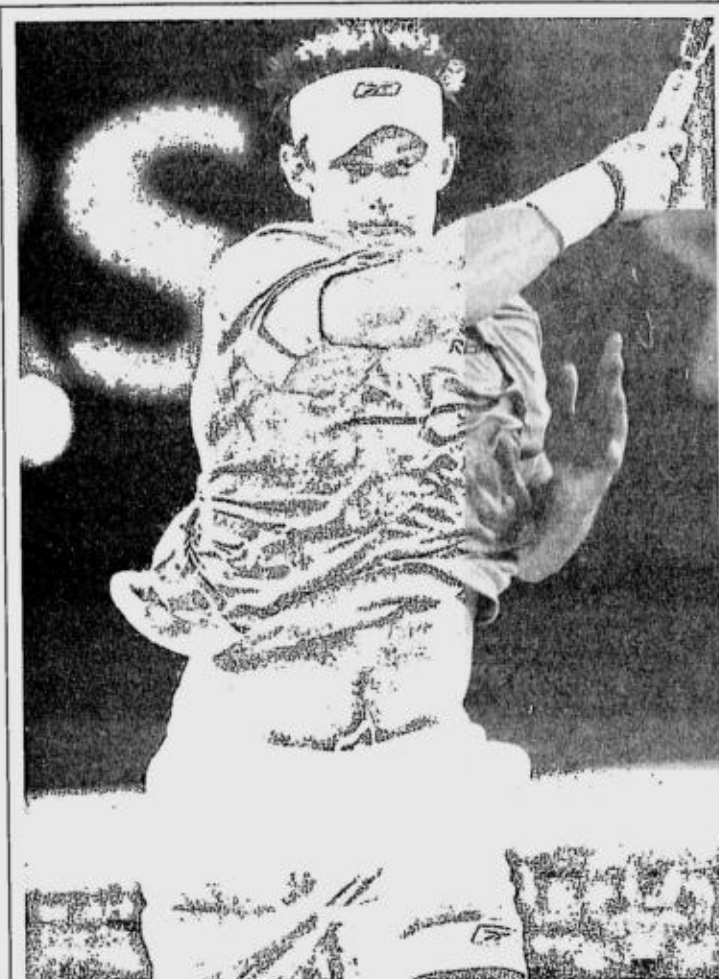
To resolve the issue, Dayrit appointed equestrian boss Peping Cojuangco to head the committee that will determine if there's a need to change the POC constitution.

Cojuangco quickly named Andrada, judo's Reynaldo Jaylo, bowling's Steve Montiveros as committee members, while Africa and lawyer Boni Alentajan were appointed as resource persons.

Dayrit also tried to appoint former body building official Lito Mondragon but his appointment was questioned by other national sports association heads. The committee was tasked to convene as early as possible and to make a report in the next GA in March.

POC chair and taekwondo president Robert Aventura, who also presided over the GA, said the creation of the committee ate so much time that they failed to discuss other matters like the leadership dispute in the cycling associations.

Cusa '5' shortest in 6-footers league



DAVIS CUP ABSENTEE

Andy Roddick will miss the United States Davis Cup first-round tie against Croatia next week with a wrist injury he sustained in the recent Australian Open.

SHORTEST among the giants.

This will be the stature of the Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) competing in the Bert Lina-Six Foot Junior Basketball Cup starting Feb. 10 at the Lyceum gym.

The tallest in the 13-man team submitted by head coach Roland Gene Tumapat to the organizing committee stands only 6-foot-3 while the rest barely made the 6-foot ceiling.

Dumapat, however, is confident his wards can make up with speed and cohesion what they lack in height in the tournament confined to players who are 18 years old or below and are at least six feet tall.

Nilo Catimbang is Cusa's tallest at 6-foot-3, followed by Manuel Villanueva Jr., Jifer Vallejo, Anthony Sonza and Carlo Martin Cecilia

who are all 6-foot-2.

Completing the Cusa Selection to be backed by a PBA team for the tournament conceptualized by Air 2100 chair Bert Lina are Aaron Paul Galapon (6-1) and six-footers Jorel Canizares, Robert Ryan Tolentino, John Belcher Torres, Jerome Baldovino, Jhay Mar Marte and Dick Perez. Both Baldovino and Perez are 16 years old.

Tryouts for slots to the six teams entered in the tournament sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines are still going on.

Interested players may contact coach Ching Ching Marcelino at tel. 861-4092 or Steven of Fed Ex at 0917-8376796. They can also proceed to the Rizal Memorial Coliseum from 6-8 p.m. and look for Marcelino. Roy Luarda

Naga hosts 1st Bicol meet

THE 1st Bicol Conference Invitational of the 33rd WNCAA-Adidas starts on Saturday in Naga City while the two-day track and field competition will simultaneously happen at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Participating schools in the Bicol meet are Divine Word College of Legazpi, Aquinas University of Legazpi, Unibersidad de Santa Is-

abel (Naga City), University of Northeastern Philippines (Iriga City), Bicol University (Legaspi City) and St. Louise de Marillac (Sorsogon City).

The 33rd WNCAA-Adidas is being supported by RPN-9, Elle, Nokia, Kambo Uno, Close-Up, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Don Henrico's Pizza, Robinsons Malls, Cafe Lupe and Cream Silk.

Letran continues tennis win streak

DEFENDING champion Letran sustained its winning form after demolishing College of St. Benilde, 3-0, last Tuesday to take sole lead in the 78th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Knights rolled to their fourth straight after Menandro Econg defeated Juan Vicente Cruz, 6-3, 6-4, Michael Mantua and Econg won over John Rey Moreno and Cruz, 5-2 (ret.) and Carrito Rojo outplayed Moreno, 8-4.

San Beda improved its win-loss card to 3-1 following a 2-1 decision over University of Perpetual Help-Rizal. Dennis Canaria downed Neil Fernandez, 7-6, 6-0 to give the Altas a 1-0 lead but Emerson Ocampo and Borgs

Solpico won the doubles over John Motol and Canaria, 6-0, 6-0 and Ocampo took the second singles over Harvey Morse, 6-0, 6-1.

Mapua Institute of Technology barged into the win column at the expense of Jose Rizal University, 3-0, Raffy Santiago trounced Gian Reynoso, 6-1, 6-2, Paul Cruz and Santiago defeated Raniel Torres and Reynoso, 6-1, 6-1, and Flint Almiron whipped Torres, 8-1.

In the juniors division, San Beda and St. Benilde scored similar wins to keep their share of the lead at 4-0.

The Red Cubs blasted the UPRH Altalettes, 3-0, after Nestor Celestino Jr. clobbered John Caball, 6-1, 6-0, Jopy Mamawal and Celestino blanked Jose Esguerra and Angelo Espiritu, 6-0, 6-0, and Mamawal dumped Esguerra, 8-0.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Player Pos Ht Wt A-S Years Team
x-Vince Carter F 6-6 225 4 Toronto
x-Allen Iverson G 6-0 165 4 Philadelphia
x-Tracy McGrady G 6-6 210 3 Orlando
x-Jermaine O'Neal C 6-11 242 2 Indiana
x-Ben Wallace C 6-9 240 1 Detroit
Zydrunas Ilgauskas C 7-3 260 1 Cleveland
Michael Jordan G 6-6 218 14 Washington
Jason Kidd G 6-4 212 6 New Jersey
Jmml Mashburn F 6-8 247 1 New Orleans
Brad Miller C 7-0 261 1 Indiana
Paul Pierce G 6-6 230 2 Boston
Antoine Walker F 6-9 245 3 Boston

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Player P Ht Wt A-S Years Team
x-Kobe Bryant G 6-6 220 5 L.A. Lakers
x-Tim Duncan F 7-0 260 5 San Antonio
x-Steve Francis G 6-3 195 2 Houston
x-Kevin Garnett F 6-11 220 6 Minnesota
x-Yao Ming C 7-5 296 1 Houston
Stephon Marbury G 6-2 205 2 Phoenix
Shawn Marion F 6-7 215 1 Phoenix
Steve Nash G 6-3 180 2 Dallas
Dirk Nowitzki F 6-7 245 2 Dallas
Shaquille O'Neal C 7-1 340 10 L.A. Lakers
Gary Payton G 6-4 180 9 Seattle
Chris Webber F 6-10 245 5 Sacramento
x-starters

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA
New Jersey vs Washington, 8:30 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Solar Sports, Dallas vs Houston, 7 p.m., IBC 13
BOXING: Friday Night
Fights, 10 p.m., ESPN
POOL: 2002 Sudden Death 7-Ball, 12 noon, ESPN
Rack 'Em Up 2, 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.(r), Star Sports
World Pool League 2002, 1 p.m. (r) and 7 p.m., ESPN
Mosconi Cup 2002, 2 p.m. (r), ESPN
World Pool Masters 2002, 8:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

Soquino bags title

CEBU—Janjie Soquino beat teammate Oswaldo Dumoram, 7-5, 6-1 to bag the boys' 18-under division at the close of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis cup and Regional workshop here Monday at the Sancase Tennis Club.

Soquino shared the lime-light with Sally Mae Siso in the unisex 10-under; Bernardino Siso in the boys' 12-under; James Canete in the boys' 14-under; Francis Largo in the boys' 16-under; Macy Solon in the girls 12-under; Jin Querubin in the girls 14-under; Floreza Alesna in the girls' 16-un-

der; and Michelle Panis in the girls' 18-under events.

On hand to award the trophies to the winners in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, Adidas and Sports Kids with a Group-3 sanction from Philta were club president Bambi Castro and Philta RVP Alex Ngo.

The 14-leg Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop next moves to the Luzon regions when the Vigan Tennis Club in Ilocos Sur hosts the 2nd staging of the nationwide tennis development program on Feb. 21-23.

Nat'l fencing begins Feb. 1

THE 2ND ESCRIMA Liga Nacional International Fencing Championships will hold its third and final leg on Feb. 1-2 at the PSC Fencing Center at the Philsports Complex in Pasig. Expected to runaway with the overall crown from defending overall champions, Ateneo are the UE Warriors who have dominated the first two legs of the two year old league. The UST Growling Tigers however, are expected to leave no stone unturned in order to sidetrack the Warriors in their serious bid for the overall crown.

Supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Athena, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amateur Fencers Association, the ESCRIMA LIGA National Inter-school Fencing Championships is

organized by TEAM Ventures as part of its grassroots sports development program. The best performing female fencer of this 2nd edition tournament shall also be awarded a special trophy courtesy of Athena, the milk for women.

Expected to grace the awarding ceremonies are Philippine Olympic Committee President Celso Dayrit recent elected OCA Vice President who encouraged the participants and the organizers to continue taking part in school-based competitions as a breeding ground for materials for the national pool and sports partner Sweepstakes PR Manager Manuel Garcia reiterating PCSO involvement in sports development. At least fifteen schools are crossing blades this weekend of fencing.

6-cock derby today

BIG-TIME cockers are seeing action today in Mandaluyong Coliseum's "One Day 5-Cock Derby" to be sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Complexor 3000 Lakpue Drug Inc.

Last Tuesday, three cockers emerged as co-champions in the "Invictus 4-Cock Derby" hosted by lawyer Mario Antonio. They are QPMI president Vic Yu (8-Cock Derby/Mercedes Benz March), Eric dela Rosa (Pasay Anniversary Derby) and Antonio (BNB).

Today's derby will be promoted by the Vic Boy Group, with some 24 participants seeing action.

Among them are Louie Cua, Jun Marasigan, Ramon Mansenares, Blandy Tolentino, Alan Tan, Jessie Veleo, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Dicky Lim, Benjie Lim, Boy de Roca, Eric dela Rosa, Vic Yu, William Go, Emil Chua, Renato Shio, Mayor Vic Amante, Nelson Co, Bobby Wong, Lito Orillaza, Jet Fernando, Gerry Ramos, Sonny Lagon at Tony Litonjua.

UE clouters post sweep

UNIVERSITY of the East flexed just enough muscles to beat University of Santo Tomas, 5-2, yesterday to complete a 10-game sweep of the eliminations and clinch the women's title outright of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines women's softball tournament.

UE rode outfielder Claire Escare's two-run scoring homerun

at the top of the second inning to foil UST, which wound up second in the tournament with seven wins and three losses.

Escare's homer that hit deep right, the ball bouncing out of the Santo Tomas pitch and into the campus service road, plus Gladys Pulido's other in-scoring base hit also in the second inning put off UST's two-run bingie at the bottom first inning.

RACING TIPS

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Ur Pride 4. Society
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Ginger Spice 3. Two
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5. Dynasouls
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Race 4-1. Slip Away 2.
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bol 5. Princess Gillian
Race 5-1. Free Again 2. In-
ner Silence 3. Star
Worth 4. As for
Me/Extreme Illusion
Race 6-1. May's Magic 2.
Express Strike 3.
Global Power 4. Go
Johnny Go 5. Manila
Mauler
Race 7-1. Ocean Magic 2.
Night Flight 3. Enjoy
the Moment
Race 8-1. Free Entrance 2.
Schumacher 3. Lucky
Choice 4. Free Way 5.
Silver Lining
Race 9-1. Annihilator 2.
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Senators to Fil-Ams: Present parents first then play

By June Navarro

FILIPINO-FOREIGN cagers better known as Fil-Ams wanting to see action in the PBA should present their parents as a requirement to join the league.

This was the consensus of Senators Robert Barbers, Ramon Magsaysay Jr.,

Robert Jaworski and John Osmeña, who are conducting an inquiry on the presence of alleged fake Fil-fors in the PBA.

Barbers said the Senate committee on games, amusements and sports would prioritize the creation of a bill obliging Fil-fors to bring their Filipino parents before the BID and the DOJ.

Should the bill be passed into law, it

would be mandatory for Fil-foreign applicants to present at least one Filipino parent to prove their Filipino lineage.

It takes Filipinos who migrated to the United States 8-10 years to acquire American citizenship. Here, it takes a foreigner claiming to have Filipino blood just two weeks to become a citizen of the Philippines," said Osmeña.

The senators will grill next week Fil-fors

whose citizenship documents are suspect.

On top of the senators' hit list are Asi Taulava of Talk N Text, Chris Jackson of Shell, Nic Belasco of San Miguel Beer, Eric Menk and James Wallkvist of Barangay Ginebra.

The rest of the PBA's 25 Fil-foreign cagers will all have their turn at the "grill box" before the league opens its 2003 season on Feb. 23.

Spring Oil Masters defeat Lhuillier Jewelers, 93-84

OZAMIZ CITY—Reigning Interclub basketball champion Spring Cooking Oil got back on the winning track Tuesday night by beating M. Lhuillier Jewelers, 93-84, at the start of the Mayor's Cup tournament hosted by Mayor Reynaldo Parohinog at the Gov. Angel Medina gym here.

Coach Tito Palma's Cooking Oil Masters led from start to finish as Ricky Ri-

cafuente, Tyrone Bautista, Mar Reyes, Rodel Manuel and Mike Buendia scored in double figures.

Host Shineway-Ozamiz City downed newly crowned CBL-Sinulog titlist M.L. Kwarta Padala, 105-98, in the other game.

The tourney serves as the final preview of the two-conference NBL (National Basketball League)

which unwraps on Feb. 21 in Metro Manila. The organizer is Taryn Micaros while the NBL supervisor is George Magsino.

Spring team owner Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, NBL vice president for operations, has set the final meeting of all participating teams on Feb. 7 at the Century Park Hotel.

Scores:

First Game

SPRING 93—Ricafuente 16, T. Bautista 15, Reyes 14, Manuel 10, Buendia 10, Espiritu 8, Ybanez 6, Limbo 4, Garcia 3, D. Bautista 2, Habellito 2.

LHUILLIER 84—B. Rodriguez 14, Enriquez 12, Ocananda 12, Sasuman 11, Canoneo 8, Cantona 8, Arano 5, Callao 4, Smith 4, Villafuerte 2.

Quarters: 25-14, 51-40, 65-51, 93-84.



JORDAN: Perennial figure.

All-Star: Jordan in, Malone out

By Chris Sheridan
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK—Michael Jordan is an All-Star for the 14th time, while Karl Malone won't be for the first time since 1987.

Jerry Stackhouse and Jalen Rose also aren't going to the league's showcase event Feb. 9 in Atlanta—and both felt snubbed. Malone took the news a little better.

"I don't think it matters," Malone said before the Jazz played at Sacramento on Tuesday night. "You don't control it, and there ain't nothing you can do about it. I got nominated 14 times, but they don't pick you now, what can you do about it?"

Stackhouse said, "I can't sit here and say it's not disappointing."

(See roster of players on A23)

Jordan called it a privilege to be able to return to the game in what he says will be his last season.

"It gives my kids a chance to go and see some of the up-and-coming stars," Jordan said.

COMPLETE RESULTS

New York 103, Atlanta 98; Detroit 86, Boston 83; Philadelphia 108, Milwaukee 81; Portland 98, Denver 92; Utah 102, Sacramento 92; Seattle 91, Golden State 88. Reuters

MJ vs Kidd on Solar

NBA fans are in for a big treat today as Solar Sports presents two exciting NBA games featuring fan favorites Michael Jordan, Jason Kidd, Dirk Nowitzki and Yao Ming. The first match pits Jordan and the Washington Wizards against Kidd and the New Jersey Nets and will be aired at 9:30 a.m. today on Solar Sports Channel 29, with a replay at 10 p.m. The two stars will be teammates for the East in the 2003 NBA All-Star Game on Feb. 10.

Taekwondo tilt slated Feb. 2

THE PHILIPPINE Taekwondo Association holds its first big tournament this year—the Petron CPJ (Carlos Palanca Jr.) Memorial Championships—on Feb. 2 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to PTA president Robert Aventura, the tourney will also determine the members of the Philippine team this year.

More than 5000 jins from Metro Manila and the provinces are expected to compete in four divisions—men and women and grade school.

PTA vice president Sing Chon Hong says contestants aspiring for berths on the national team will see action in eight weight categories for men and women, namely, fin, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter, middle and heavy. They will be matched against each other based on their respective categories.

Grade school jins will see action according to height and age in six categories.

Those making it to the national team will undergo rigorous training in preparation for their participation in the US Open championships, 15th FAJR International Championships, Asian Junior Championships, Chun Cheon International Championships, 22nd Universiade Taekwondo Championships, 16th World Championships, World Olympic Games Selection and the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam late this year.

Martial arts enthusiasts and sports fans, especially children who are interested to learn the sport, are invited to watch the tourney starting at 9 a.m.

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GOV. Lito Lapid

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

"I DON'T know him. I don't even know how he looks."

With this pronouncement, Gov. Lito Lapid of Pampanga yesterday joined the hunt for Bashir Abdulrahman, primary suspect in the killing of Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas.

Lapid said he has mobilized his Mus-

lim supporters in the province to help track down Abdulrahman.

Lapid's move was made public following the confirmation yesterday by National Bureau of Investigation officials of the "close monitoring" of Muslim communities in Pampanga for Abdulrahman.

The same officials however declined to say if Abdulrahman was hiding in the province.

In asking the cooperation of Muslim sup-

porters, Lapid also denied knowing Abdulrahman who, investigators said, had bragged about his closeness to the governor.

"I don't know him. I don't even know how he looks like," Lapid told the INQUIRER by telephone.

Lawyer Samuel Fijii, NBI director in Central Luzon, said "there is no pursuit yet but (we are) closely monitoring him (Abdulrahman) in villages where Muslims (live)."

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said the provincial police had begun the hunt.

NBI agents earlier searched Muslim communities in Palawan but did not find Abdulrahman.

Onos Mangotara, head of the NBI office in Palawan, said Abdulrahman was no longer in Palawan and might have gone to Pampanga.

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino



A violent death in an institution
she had served with pride

A26

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Keep oil depot open, Golez tells Atienza

By Ronnel Domingo

WITH the US-led war against Iraq seen as imminent, the National Security Council and the energy department yesterday urged Manila City Hall not to allow the closure of the Pandacan oil depot because the government has to come up with measures against a possible oil supply crisis.

In a statement, national security adviser Roilo Golez called on City Hall to look at the bigger picture and consider national interest.

"The onus is both on the national and local governments to cooperate, to ensure security of oil supply at a time of uncertainty," Golez said.

He said international and local prices have shot up at record levels due to world events and that local prices could soar even higher if the Pandacan oil depot was closed.

In a briefing with reporters, Energy Secretary-Vincent Perez Jr. said the Manila city government should allow Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and Caltex Philippines to continue their operations in Pandacan by renewing their business permits, which are expiring today.

City officials have scored the oil giants for having done so little to comply with an agreement to scale down operations at the facility and put up safety buffer zones around the depot to protect nearby communities.

"Substantial compliance (to the agreement) is immaterial if national interest will be impaired," Perez said.

He said that closure of the Pandacan depot—which provides 90 percent of Metro Manila's fuel needs and 50 percent of Northern Luzon's—would mean grave distribution problems.

Beware of public outrage, militants warn Fernando

By Christian Esguerra and Leila Salaverria

BAD KARMA and his own conscience.

These are what Bayani Fernando has to watch out for—more than a supposed assassination plot against him—for allegedly engaging in "oppressive acts" against illegal vendors and squatters, the militant group Sanlakas said yesterday.

Don Pangan of Sanlakas was reacting to Malacañang's claim that Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, was on the New People's Army's hit list because of his relentless campaign to rid the streets of all obstructions.

"Fernando is creating his own ghost," he said. "What he should most fear is the brewing public outrage over his cruel policies, not the NPA."

Renato Reyes, spokesperson of

the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, yesterday said the supposed hit list should neither be dignified nor taken seriously.

"Protest actions are enough to defend vendors and informal settlers against Fernando's oppressive acts," he said.

What could be the last straw for irate squatters is the planned demolition in March of around 70,000 shanties along railways that cut across northern and southern Metro Manila, Pangan warned.

The government, through the MMDA, is set to drive away initially around 20,000 families for the rehabilitation of the local railway system, he said.

The demolition would supposedly affect squatters in Alabang, Bangkal, Tayuman, Blumentritt, and Caloocan.

After six months of battling it out with vendors to carry out his

controversial sidewalk clearing operations, Fernando said that it's time for people to decide whether they want the project to continue.

"It's time (for the public to) make a decision," he said. "Are you against it or not? If you are, then I should stop the operations, and let the illegal vendors take over," he said. "But if you're not (against the project), then stop buying from illegal vendors."

But Fernando warned that without his project, which is meant to reduce traffic and minimize garbage on the roads, Metro Manila streets would remain chaotic.

He said the law prohibits people from using sidewalks for private enterprise, and that he is merely implementing this.

The MMDA chair said on Tuesday that he would continue with his sidewalk clearing operations, even after he admitted that he is

worried over the NPA threat.

Fernando also defended his instruction to MMDA personnel to destroy the vendors' wares.

The MMDA chair cited reports that suspected MMDA personnel have been hurting and robbing sidewalk vendors. He said the suspects are probably not from the MMDA because all members are required to wear uniforms.

He said that in destroying the goods, the MMDA personnel would also be removing the suspicion that they are taking the wares for themselves.

He also said the clearing operations have to be done on all public spaces overrun by obstructions.

"We can't have exceptions," he said, responding to comments that some vendors have been allowed to use a portion of the streets in Manila. "It's not workable and not manageable."

ARMY 2ND LT. JESSICA CHAVEZ

'A violent death in an institution she had served with pride'

By Jerry Esplanada
(Conclusion)

"GOD will protect me."

That was what the late Army 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez listed as her motto in the Philippine Military Academy's Sanghaya Class 2000 yearbook.

Jessica's parents, Efren and Milwelda, said they were still asking themselves why their daughter "met such a violent death in the same military institution she had served with great pride."

"But we're confident the Lord will continuously guide us in our quest for truth and justice for our daughter Jessica's death," they told the INQUIRER.

Both Roman Catholics, they appealed to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to support them in their lonely crusade.

Members of the Chavez family also aired similar appeals to Senators Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, all PMA graduates like Jessica; as well as Sen. Loren Legarda and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Controversial former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had earlier expressed willingness to help the Chavez family.

"But it was just an expression of support," according to Jessica's father during an interview at the Chavez residence in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur. "It ended there."

"Can you blame us for pinning our hopes on people from outside the (Ilocos) region?" he asked.

Upset

The Chavez family is also upset at former Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diodoro Villanueva, who hails from the nearby town of Tagudin (Ilocos Sur).

Efren and Milwelda recalled

that "we had high hopes the general, being a provincemate, would be able to help us."

"We were even more confident knowing that his son Jojo, was a classmate of Jessica at the PMA. So we decided to see the general sometime during the Holy Week in 2001 at his rest house in Tagudin."

About 300 of our townmates joined us in that surprise visit, including (Sta. Cruz) Mayor Teresita Valle and Vice Mayor Rodrigo Romano."

The couple said a member of Villanueva's staff went out to see them.

"(The staff member) quoted the general as saying we should have requested for a meeting at (Villanueva's) office in Camp Aguinaldo, not at the rest house."

"After a while Gen. Villanueva agreed to see only the two of us. The rest of the group waited outside. He looked very serious. He made us feel we were not welcome. He spoke quite harshly to us. He pointed out he had an office at GHQ in Camp Aguinaldo and that he preferred to see his visitors there."

"We told him we needed his help. We did not get a single word of encouragement from him. He only said he would order an investigation," Efren said.

Articles of War

In a May 29, 2001 letter, Brig. Gen. Larberto Sillona, AFP Inspector General, told the Chavez family that his office had recommended the pre-trial investigation of Jessica's superiors—then Maj. Ramon Mateo Dizon and Capt. Domingo Campos, respectively the then commanding officer and intelligence officer of Jessica's unit, the 191st Military Police Battalion—for alleged violation of Articles of War 96 and 97, otherwise known as acts unbecoming an officer and gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good

order and military discipline.

Sillona noted that the investigations of the Southern Police District Command and the National Bureau of Investigation had been "hampered" due to the reported "contamination" of the evidence submitted to them, and the alleged non-cooperation of the members of the 191st battalion.

The Inspector General also cited the following:

- "Failure of Maj. Dixon to secure the scene of the incident and preserve evidence pertinent to the death of 2nd Lt. Chavez. He had the quarters of Chavez cleaned before the arrival of the investigating police officers."

- "Failure of Maj. Dixon to submit himself and other concerned MP Battalion personnel for paraffin and polygraph tests immediately after the incident."

- "Maj. Dizon and Capt. Campos and other concerned personnel were always giving excuses whenever invited by the SPDC or NBI for questioning, thereby hampering the investigation."

- "Inconsistencies in the testimonies of witnesses. As example, Private Juanitas, in her first testimony at SPDC, stated that she entered the rooms of 2nd Lt. Chavez with a certain Jerry Villanueva when she heard gunfire. On her second testimony, she said she entered the room upon the advice of M/Sgt. Tanguilan, and she never mentioned Villanueva."

Court martial

Sillona also said "if evidence warrants, court martial proceedings will follow."

Court martial proceedings did follow. But on Aug. 17, 2001, the military court acquitted the Army officers of the charges.

"I cannot control my tears when the chair announced the body's de-



THE grieving family of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez has little else but hope and prayers to sustain their quest for justice.

cision," Efren said. "I thought we had very strong evidence because investigators from the Judge Advocate General's Office even recommended that a trial be held."

The Chavez family cited Gen. Sillona's letter, among other documents, in filing a 10-page appeal before the Department of Justice last Oct. 23, after a Rizal prosecutor denied his Oct. 2 motion for reconsideration.

Rizal assistant provincial prosecutor Mariano Santos had dismissed the criminal complaint against Dizon and three other members of the 191st MP Battalion for lack of merit.

More than 40 of Jessica's 246 classmates, as well as an undisclosed number of PMA cadets have joined the Chavez family's crusade for justice.

One of Jessica's mistahs (classmates) lamented that "some people

in and out of the military have been calling her (Feb. 9, 2001) death a suicide, actually a convenient excuse for not uncovering the truth."

No reason to kill herself

According to Jessica's parents, they included some of her mistahs, supposedly close friends of our daughter who also had the temerity to tell us not to pursue the case.

Sarmiento said he strongly believed "it wasn't suicide because there's no reason for Jessica to kill herself."

Called "Chavor," a play on her surname Chavez, Jessica was one of 10 women of Class 2000 who survived the four-year rigorous academic and physical training at the Philippine Military Academy. She was taking up engineering at the St. Louis University in Baguio City when she passed the PMA entrance tests.

When interviewed, Dizon, now a lieutenant colonel and deputy commander of the AFP Anti-Crime Task Force, said he understood "how her family and classmates feel."

"We can't stop them in their quest for justice and I don't intend to," Dizon told the INQUIRER. "If they think that the investigation wasn't done well, I can't do anything about that."

To preserve the memory of Jessica, her father has put up an aluminum sign (at the hanging bridge leading to barangay Padoil) to remind everyone that his "daughter died a violent death while serving the military and that her death demands justice."

For Jessica's folks, "the crusade for justice keep us and some of her mistahs close."

"The roots that bind us have grown deep and strong."

Mayors who are presidential timber

NAVY and Coast Guard personnel aboard vessels allegedly sell their diesel fuel ration to private ships or boats in the high seas, according to recent news reports recently.

Such reports are no longer new. Navy and Coast Guard ships on patrol carry a month or week's ration of diesel fuel. They sell a part of the ration to fishing boats at a low price.

That's the reason why you seldom see Navy or Coast Guard ships sailing for months or weeks on end. These ships are anchored off some isolated islands. Their officers and crew make it appear that they have consumed on sea, patrol the fuel they have sold.

If you're a fisherman or domestic sailor, you know this kind of corruption of the Navy and Coast Guard personnel aboard ships.

Only the Navy or Coast Guard high commands are ignorant about this kind of corruption. Most likely, they pretend ignorance.

Why do high Navy and Coast

Guard officials pretend ignorance?

The answer is simple: They were into it once upon a time.

I have received a very disturbing report from some Coast Guard insiders.

This report says that every Taiwanese fishing vessel that poaches in Philippine waters pays between P150,000 and P200,000 to some Coast Guard officials.

No wonder some of them have become millionaires.

The New People's Army (NPA) would be making a martyr out of Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, if they assassinated him on the mere complaints of squatters and sidewalk vendors against him.

Fernando is one of the most efficient government officials I know. His campaign to rid sidewalks of vendors and the bank of the Pasig River of squatters is backed by the silent majority. Only those adversely affected by Fernando's

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



campaign are complaining.

Why should the NPA urban guerrillas begrudge a guy who's doing his job? There is not a single report that Fernando is corrupt.

But somehow, I've lost some measure of awe and respect for Fernando, who's now also the secretary of public works and highways.

Fernando asked the NPAs to spare him. He said he was only doing his job.

If a government official is doing his job, why should he be afraid of anybody? Why should he beg for mercy when he has not committed a crime against the people?

In my book, Fernando is presi-

dential timber because he has what many people call "political will."

The other officials who would make an excellent president are Mayors Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City, Lito Atienza of Manila and Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa.

Like Fernando when he was Marikina City mayor, Duterte, Atienza and Hagedorn have made their cities livable, progressive and peaceful.

In looking for presidential candidates for 2004, political stalwarts should not search only from the ranks of the Senate or House of Representatives.

Why not look at the ranks of local executives-governors and mayors-as possible sources of candidates?

In the US, most successful presidents were once state governors. To mention a few: George W. Bush of Texas, Bill Clinton of Arkansas, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, Ronald Reagan of California.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide

and Justice Secretary Simeon Datananong have announced they would go after corrupt judges and prosecutors.

Most judges and prosecutors are not only corrupt but inefficient as well. Criminal cases are decided by judges and prosecutors based on how much money they receive from the respondents or complainants.

Many judges issue temporary restraining orders (TROs) because they are bribed by people favorably affected by the TROs.

You don't have to go far in looking for a corrupt judge, Mr. Chief Justice.

Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Emilio L. Leachon acquitted recently seven Chinese drug traffickers who were arrested in a raid on a narcotics laboratory in July last year.

Government agents confiscated P2 billion worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu. It was one of the biggest drug hauls in the history of local law enforcement.

Who own these cars?

LAND Transportation Office authorities are alerted regarding the owners of a Hyundai Starex van (MJJ-811) and a black sedan (GDL-116).

Drivers of both vehicles hit and killed Roberto R. Yumang, 48, a father of two, while outracing each other along Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard near Santol in Sta. Mesa on the early evening of Jan. 19.

The victim, a poor family driver, was buried yesterday and police have yet to locate his killers who had driven away after running over the victim.

Please give any information about the vehicles' owners to the Western Police District or to the victim's wife Carmencita at (0919) 833-1342.

Christian Esguerra

Kilabot ng mga Kriminal!

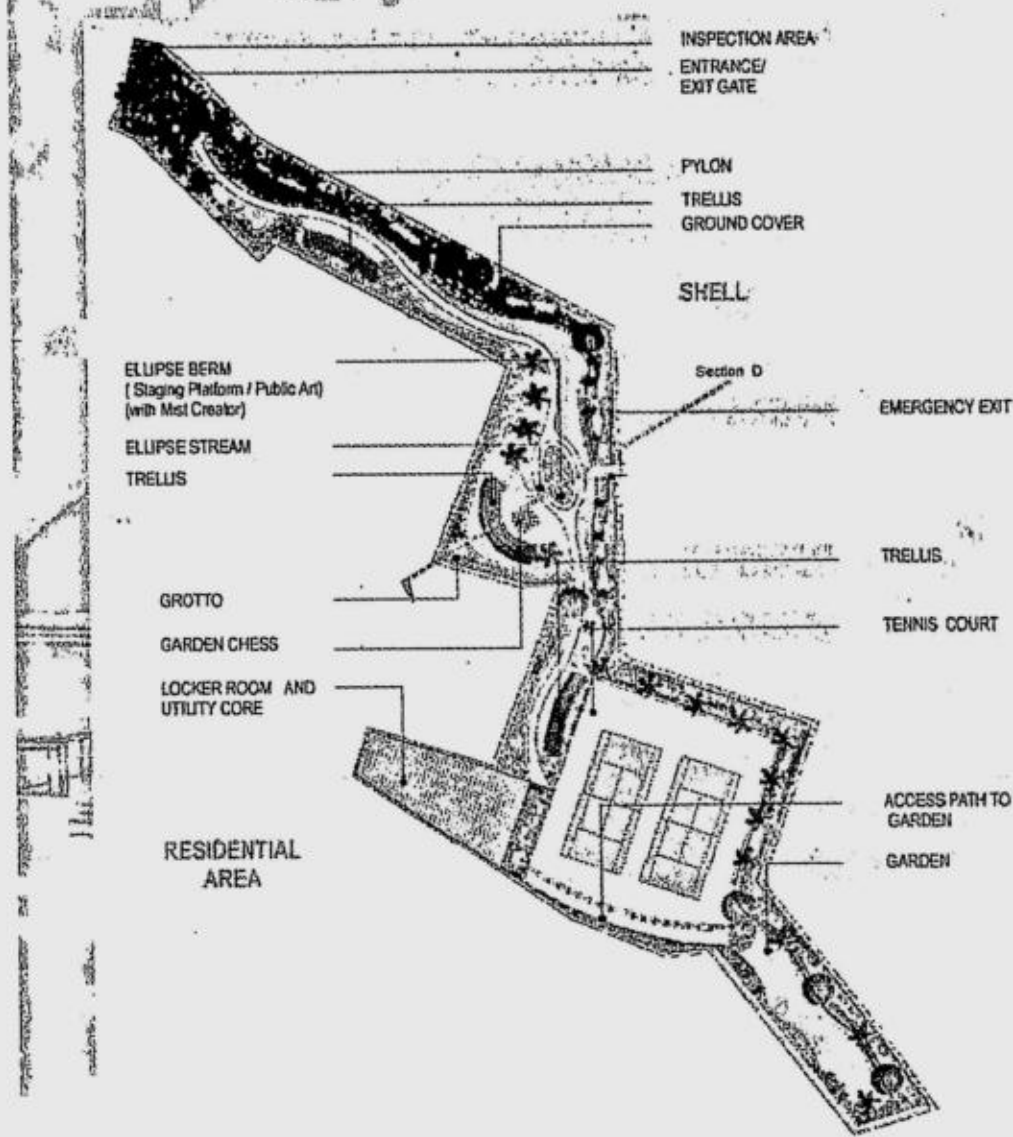
Magbabalik na!

THE NEW PANDACAN LINEAR PARK RISES

A new park will rise in Pandacan.

It is the result of a partnership by the City of Manila, the Department of Energy and the three oil companies operating in Pandacan to address the concerns of the residents of the City of Manila on perceived safety and security risks.

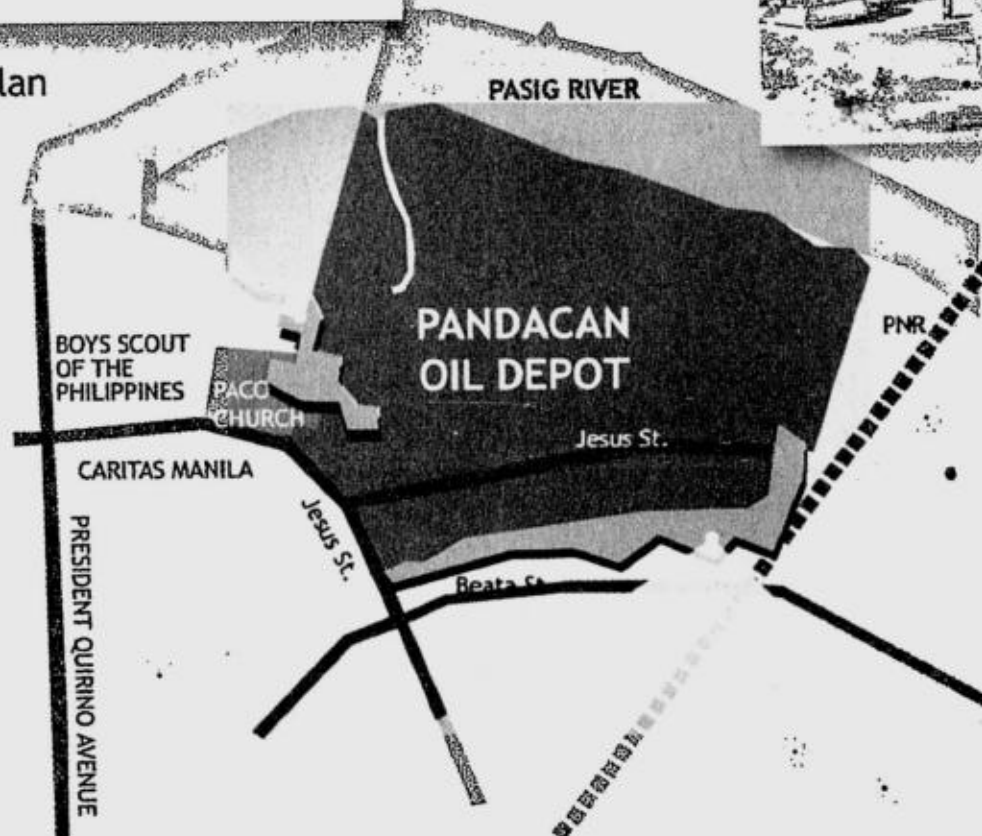
It is also an expression of support by the three oil companies to the City of Manila's urban renewal efforts, particularly through the "Buhayin ang Maynila" movement.



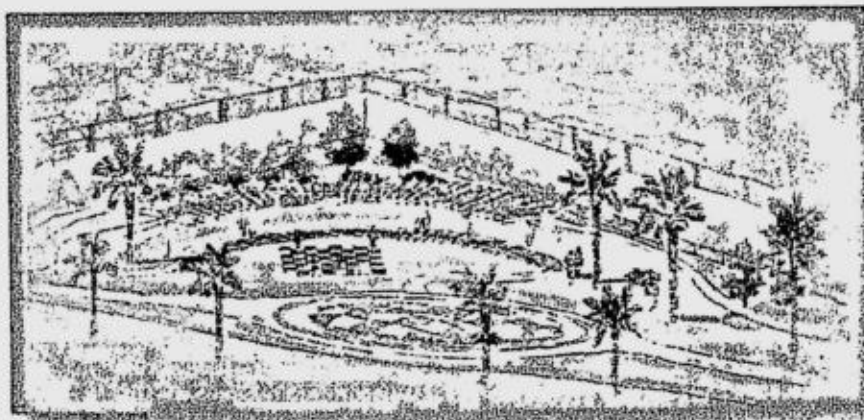
Park One: Site Development Plan



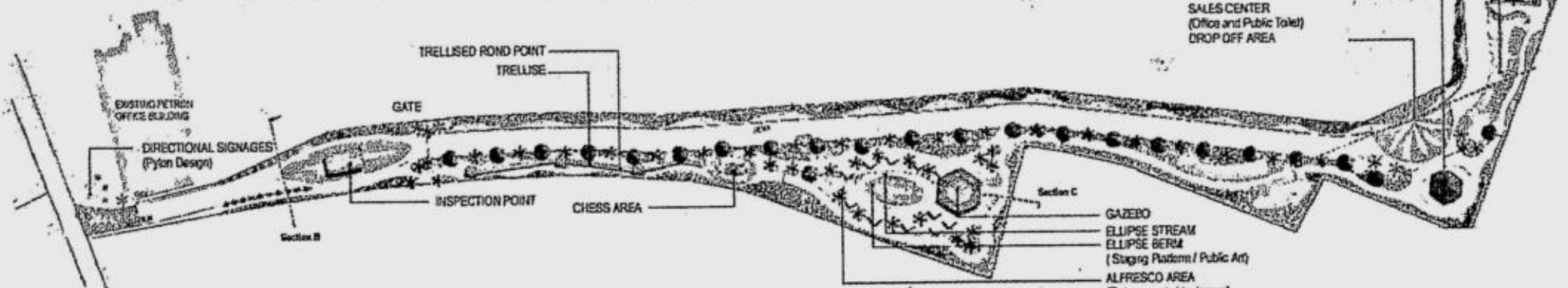
Park One: Garden Chess



Park Two: Site Development Plan



Park One: Elliptical Berm



Park Two: Information Center

"The two-hectare Pandacan Linear Park is a good balance between what the City of Manila wants, what is good for the community, and what is good for the country. It will be a place of leisure and social inter-action as well as provide active and passive recreation through a basketball and tennis courts, dama and chess kiosks, including garden and picnic grounds."

Arch. Felino Palafox Jr., urban planner



FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY R.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Redgrave, Gene Hackman, Brett Butler, Dick Cheney
Happy Birthday: You are aggressive, influential and won't stop trying until you complete what you set out to do. You are an adventurer and will step into a position of leadership this year. You will gain popularity as well as recognition. Your numbers are 3, 17, 24, 27, 32, 41



ARIES (March 21-April 19): One-sided partnerships are likely to end in disaster. Be sure to get promises in writing. Deception is apparent when dealing with both your personal and professional life.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't overspend or give too freely to others. This is a time for fiscal restraint. Work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Colleagues may not be telling you all the facts. Someone may be trying to make you look bad. You may feel uncertain about the future of the company you work for. Diversify.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make plans to travel. You need to provide mental stimulation to offset boredom. Expand your knowledge.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will be tense. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. You may just want to keep to yourself for the time being.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Include friends and family in cultural events. Everyone will appreciate your efforts and be inspired by your creativity. Don't let children talk you into spending money unnecessarily.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. It will be a waste of time and energy. Put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the time to catch up on overdue phone calls. Get together with those you find interesting and who have different philosophies. Expand your horizons.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful how you help those less fortunate. Diplomacy will be of the utmost importance. Don't lend your cash to others; give of your time.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your uncertainty will be difficult for loved ones to comprehend. Your communication skills are somewhat lacking, so do not overreact or get involved in senseless disputes.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take the time to review your past; it will shed light on the present. You will find it easier to make decisions concerning your goals if you have a better handle on the circumstances that surround you.

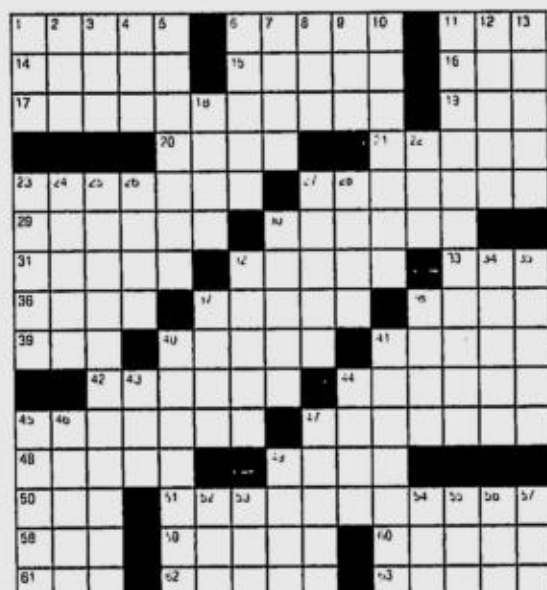


PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your ability to see both sides of the coin will put you into a position of leadership. Others will admire your abilities and be willing to support your efforts.

Birthday Baby: Others will look to you for advice and solutions. You will have a strong desire to experience new things, but you will not do so if it means giving up your traditions and beliefs.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- State capital meaning "wooded"
 - "Columbo" star Falk
 - One way to stand
 - Add
 - Band together
 - Raw mineral
 - #1 song from "Rocky"
 - Director Craven
 - City near Phoenix
 - Go-between
 - Gradual deterioration
 - Act as
 - Go-fer's task
 - Religion of zombies
 - Chatter away
 - Stingers
 - Craze
 - Slimy stuff
 - Commutes
 - Besides
 - Sample
 - Doomed one
 - Speak monotonously
 - Miss a step
 - Long-time Mets hurler
 - Torrid zone
 - Reindeer do?
 - Seraglio
 - Mexican water
 - Wingley greenery
 - #1 song from "The Graduate"
 - Classical opener?
 - Like some kitchens
 - Roanne's river
 - Wildbeest
 - Prepare
 - Barn bedding
- DOWN**
- Purse
 - Yoko
 - Holiday
 - Dignitary in DC
 - Scrutinize
 - Throb



By Gregory E. Paul
 Scottsdale, PA

1/30/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

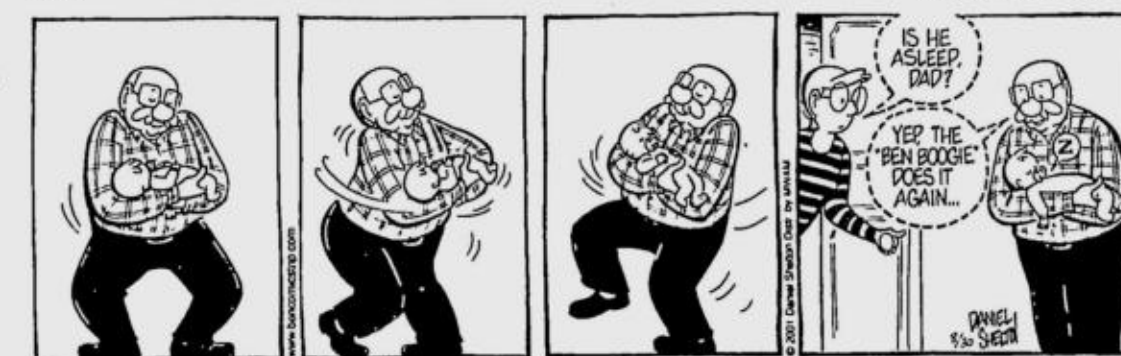
FEES	CALF	SPOIL
LARK	ALOE	TILDE
URGE	CLOT	ONION
BLOW	SHOT	AND COLD
LET	UGH	
LAYOUT	AWRY	POP
ELOPE	OTIS	IOWA
MAKES	UPONES	MIND
OMEN	TALK	LASED
NOD	BULL	COMEDY
ERR	DOT	
DIGS	INONES	SHEELS
ORATE	KENT	CLIO
COLOR	RAIL	HALL
KNAPS	ARMY	ONTO

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- Campus military grp.
- Asian sea
- Inkling
- Particulars
- Luminox
- Ignore with contempt
- Object
- Poe bird
- Torment
- Parched
- "Norma"
- RR stop
- Ready or
- Polite address
- pro nobis
- Innovative

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



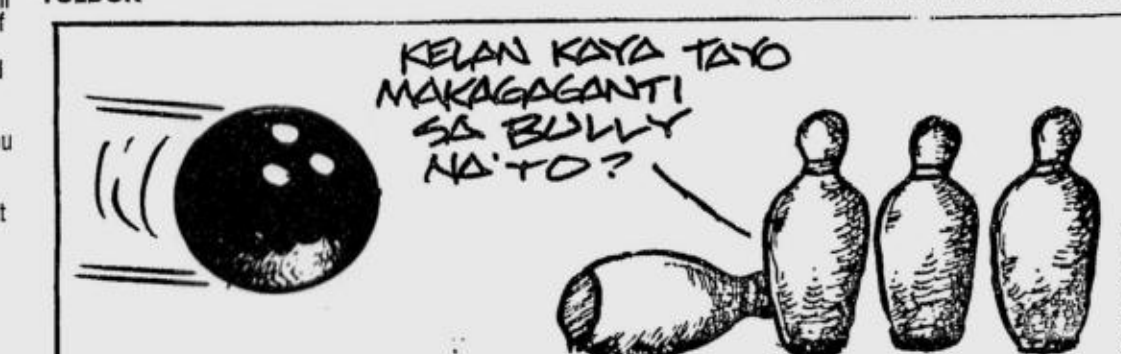
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETA	G4 GLORIETA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SUKULAN	1 THE HOT CHICK	OFF KEY (EXCLUSIVE) 1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 1:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2 RING (ORIG. JAPANESE VERSION)	2 8 MILE	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN	3 FEMME FATALE	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15	BELOW 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30	THE HOT CHICK
4 THE HOT CHICK	4 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN		FEMME FATALE 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 BELOW
	5 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS		THE HOT CHICK 4:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:00	FEMME FATALE

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinema)" and send to 2533. Or log on to www.suresseats.com. GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest
Festival Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1. (2:00 PM) BELOW
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS
6. (2:00 PM) THE RING
7. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
8. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
9. (2:00 PM) EIGHT MILE
10. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel 853.4486

1. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT
2. (2:00 PM)
3. (2:00 PM)
4. (2:00 PM)
5. (2:00 PM)
6. (2:00 PM) ONE HOUR PHOTO
Golden Pearl THX

Marasagana
CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
2. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

starmall Movies (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

METROPOLIS (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS
2. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
5. (2:00 PM) BELOW
6. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

M (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1. (2:00 PM) BELOW
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

PREMIERE (Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
2. (2:00 PM) HOME ALONG DA RIBER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC (Fairview) tel 930.9515

1. (2:00 PM) RESERVE
2. (2:00 PM) MALDITA
3. (2:00 PM) RESERVE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) RESERVE
4. (2:00 PM) RESERVE

Yamora Plaza CINEMAS (Makati City) tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
2. (2:00 PM) THE RING

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) BELOW
5. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
6. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

Gotesco Calocan (Calocan) tel 362.3508

1. (2:00 PM) RESERVE
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
5. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
7. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS
8. (2:00 PM) BELOW
9. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

Gotesco Grand Central (Calocan) tel 365.7928

1. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
6. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS
7. (2:00 PM) BELOW
8. (2:00 PM) THE RING
9. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

Gotesco Commonwealth (Commonwealth) tel 951.0082

1. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) THE RING

Gotesco Ortigas (Ortigas) tel 656.6795

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
4. (2:00 PM) MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
5. (2:00 PM) BELOW

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

1. (2:00 PM) BED TIME STORY

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE

Isetan Cinemas Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA (Recto) tel 733.4238

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
3. (2:00 PM) RESERVE
4. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
5. (2:00 PM) BELOW

FRC Cinema (Talaba Bacor Cavite) tel 733.5004

1. (2:00 PM) BELOW
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

Berna Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1. (2:00 PM) SHAOLIN SOCCER
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta (Araneta) tel 751.2010 to 13

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

MALL CINEPLEX 7 (Mall Cineplex 7) tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
2. (2:00 PM) LOD OF THE RINGS 2
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
5. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
6. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
7. (2:00 PM) BELOW

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1. (2:00 PM) EIGHT MILE
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) SWIM FAN

Cine Nepo Mall (Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

1. (2:00 PM) VAMPS
2. (2:00 PM) EIGHT MILE
3. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING **TEX** **DOLBY** **DTS** **SDDS**

Festival Supermall Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85036-71 to 72

catch me if you can
The true story of a real fake.
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOR 4173888

1. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
2. (2:00 PM) THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
7. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
8. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK

SM SOUTHMALL 8088888

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5. (2:00 PM) LONG TIME DEAD
6. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
8. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
9. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
10. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2. (2:00 PM) THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT
4. (2:00 PM) SWIMFAN
5. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
6. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
7. (2:00 PM) VAMPS
8. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
2. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
3. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
4. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
6. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
7. (2:00 PM) BELOW
8. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
9. (2:00 PM) THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
10. (2:00 PM) DIE ANOTHER DAY
11. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
12. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
2. (2:00 PM) RING (JAPANESE)
3. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
4. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5. (2:00 PM) BELOW
6. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
9. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
10. (2:00 PM) THE RING (JAPANESE)
11. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
12. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE

SM MEGAMALL 8331801 / 8329401

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
5. (2:00 PM) RING (JAPANESE)
6. (2:00 PM) ONE HOUR PHOTO
7. (2:00 PM) TRY SEVENTEEN
8. (2:00 PM) THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
9. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
10. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
11. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
12. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
2. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
3. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
4. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
5. (2:00 PM) RING (JAPANESE)
6. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7. (2:00 PM) BELOW
8. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY DAVAO 2978998

1. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
5. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6. (2:00 PM) BELOW

SM BICUTAN 776-3055

1. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) BELOW

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO 859-2884

1. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT
4. (2:00 PM) LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

THE PODIUM CINEMA 18 ADD Avenue, Ortiga Center, Mandaluyong City 833-8976

1. (2:00 PM) 11:25 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
2. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 11:20 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
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Galleria 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

THX CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 10:30 AM (MF); 1:15 PM 4:00 PM; 6:45 & 9:30 LMF

2. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
5. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
6. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS II
7. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
8. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
9. (2:00 PM) RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
10. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 level cinema
Mon.- Fri. / 10am-4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-12

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
5. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
6. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
7. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

Metro East - 682-8193 / 8280
Marcos Hwy

1. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
2. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS II
3. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4. (2:00 PM) BELOW
5. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
6. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
7. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
8. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS II
2. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
3. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK
4. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
5. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
6. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
7. (2:00 PM) BELOW
8. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Malabon 288-0985 / 288-2575
Crispian

1. (2:00 PM) KERIDA
2. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE

Star Mills - 875-1927 / 961-5318 / 5270
Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

1. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
2. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
3. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT
4. (2:00 PM) BELOW
5. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6. (2:00 PM) HOT CHICK

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1. (2:00 PM) FEMME FATALE
2. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE
3. (2:00 PM) BELOW
4. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
5. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN

Sta. Rosa 049-8370907
Laguna

1. (2:00 PM) CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
5. (2:00 PM) ANALYZE THAT

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS II
2. (2:00 PM) BELOW
3. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RINGS II
4. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
5. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)
6. (2:00 PM) 8 MILE

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RING II
2. (2:00 PM) HALF PAST DEAD
3. (2:00 PM) SUKULAN
4. (2:00 PM) LORD OF THE RING II
5. (2:00 PM) CHARLOTTE GRAY
6. (2:00 PM) THE RING (US VERSION)

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Lana Jalosjos follows in her mom's footsteps

THERE is no denying that she inherited her singing from her mom.

Lana Jalosjos, daughter of lounge singer Lourna Pal, admits singing came naturally to her.

"I grew up under my mother's shadow. I grew up in an artist's environment," Lana says.

Lana joined the UP Concert Chorus, auditioned for theater productions that included roles in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Rent."

As a performer, Lana had her own shows at Greenbelt 3 in Makati, where she rendered an all-Barbra Streisand repertoire.

Apart from Streisand's songs, Lana also sings blues, R and B and pop.

"My repertoire is varied," Lana says. "Sometimes, the audience can be very demanding. As a singer, I try to please my crowd, not just myself."

Lana sings at the Chef and Brewer in Ortigas (Jan. 30). Accompanying her on the piano is John Garcia.



HIDALGO SIBLINGS. Arnee and Jeffrey

Siblings act

THE TALENTED Hidalgo siblings—Jeffrey and Arnee—team up for the first time in a show at 9:30 tonight at Siete Pecados Music Lounge.

The show pits Jeffrey and Arnee's musical styles—he with his ballads; she with her R&B tunes.

Jeffrey is a former member of Ryan Cayabyab's Smokey Mountain. He won the grand prize in the "Musika" songfest and is a Viva

Records artist.

Arnee is with Universal Records and was the second prize winner in the Voice of Asia International Music Festival.

The Siete Pecados show is produced by RRCM and M1 Entertainment, with ALV Entertainment.

Official radio stations are City Lite 88.3, Joey 92.3 and 105.1 Crossover.

Tickets at P300. For details, call 551-5555 or 747-4554.

AYALA CINEMAS

Art Film GREENBELT 1

OFF KEY

Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.

It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.

Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Gallena & Ariadna Gil

SKYFILMS **NOKIA** **INQUIRER**

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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BELOW P13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	FEMME FATALE R18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:15
HOT CHICK P13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	ANALYZE THAT P13 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

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11:10, 1:50, 4:30
7:10, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2 **HOT CHICK**
12:00, 2:10, 4:20,
6:30, 8:40
P13

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FEB 7-8 & 21-22, 2003 *MULA SA PUSOD (Pababa)* 9:00 PM
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Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SUKDULAN
Ali 2	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Ali 4	FEMME FATALE
Ali 5	HOT CHICK
Ali 6	TRY SEVENTEEN
Ali 7	BELOW

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	8 MILE
Farmers 2	THE RING

ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 15	LANI MISALUCHA CONCERT
FEB 16	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT

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JAN. 31	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 1	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM

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WALANG KABA?
DI MARUNONG MATAKOT?
MATIBAY ANG DIBDIB?
P'WES, ITO ANG HORROR
MOVIE
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TIYAK 'YUN!

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HERO

OPENS FEBRUARY 5

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAHERA / POSSESSION
ODEON	FEMME FATALE
ODEON-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI / TUKAAN
ROBEN	SUKDULAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAHAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RED DRAGON / TRAP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SUKDULAN
CORONET B	DERAILED / BUSS FOR PLEASURE
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	SUKDULAN
REMAR-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SUKDULAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	UK FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOT CHICK
CINEMA-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
CINEMA-3	8 MILE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ONE HOUR PHOTO
CINEMA-6	BANGKERO
CINEMA-7	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-8	THE RING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELOW
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	FEMME FATALE
CINEMA-12	TRY SEVENTEEN
CINEMA-14	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-15	SUKDULAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LIPS

UNIWIIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELD

MTRCB RATING **R RESTRICTED** Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

"GUSTO KONG MAG-EXPERIMENTO..."

Sukdulan

hanggang saan
ka sasabay?
hanggang kailan
ka bibigay?

DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE

NOW SHOWING

Celebrities fuse modern technology with their busy, varied lifestyles



BALANCING ACT. Broadcaster Cathy Yang, holding her Asian TV award, is first and foremost a mother even if she's working in Japan.

Cathy Yang blooms on Bloomberg TV

I've always been fascinated with how newscasters do their thing. Not too many people know that my very first break on TV was with RPN 9's "Newswatch Junior Edition," when I was still in elementary. But there was nothing elementary about doing the newscast during my adolescence.

That early, I had to grapple with reading from a teleprompter and improving my command of the vernacular. I know how tedious and demanding a newscaster's job can be, that's why I really look up to those who excel in that field.

One of them is Cathy Yang. I remember her as the chinky-eyed co-host of *Ces Drilon* in "Usapang Business" a few years ago.

Cathy instantly struck me as no-nonsense girl. She knows what she's talking about. She's definitely more than just a pretty face or a talking head.

Beneath her angelic features is a go-getter who'll stop at nothing to improve her craft and expand her horizons. Having risen from the ranks, Cathy cultivated her niche in financial news journalism in Manila for eight years. She took both knowledge and experience to the global stage two years ago, when she joined Bloomberg TV Asia-Pacific in Tokyo.

Since 2001, Cathy has been presenting Bloomberg TV's "MoneyCast Asia" three hours daily, five times a week. Recently, she bested other veteran newscasters in the region and won the much-coveted best news presenter/anchor at the Asian TV Awards. That's certainly more than just good news.

I got to chat with Cathy before she returned to Tokyo. Here's a glimpse of our girl who keeps blooming on Bloomberg TV.

Dolly: What was your initial reaction when you won?

Cathy: I was in a shock. In fact, even up to now, there's still an aftershock. (Laughter) I can hardly believe I beat some of my idols in newscasting like Martin Soong of CNBC and Jill Nuebronner of CNN's "Morning Show." I'm so flattered because the judges were all big names in the international news circuit.

D: Are you more Chinese than Filipino?

C: I'm 75 percent Chinese, but in my heart, I've always been a Filipino. Manila is what I consider my home. In fact, every weekend I fly back here from Tokyo to spend time with my husband Gilbert and our six-year-old daughter Angelica.

D: Doesn't the long-distance set-up get in the way of your marriage or work?

C: I feel so blessed that my husband has always been very supportive of me. I can be more of myself because he inspires me to do better each time. We burn the phone lines daily and e-mail each other non-stop. Before we realize it, the weekend's here and we will be together again.

He's a dermatologist. I think it's healthy that we both give each other space to grow in our respective fields. Missing each other somehow brings us closer.

D: What made you decide to pack your bags and look for greener pastures—and bucks—abroad?

C: I felt like I still had a lot to learn. I don't want to stagnate. My background here when I was still with ABS-CBN helped a lot, too.

D: What if you are offered a lucrative job here? Will you give up your work at Bloomberg?

C: I'm keeping my options open, although I would really like to stretch the possibilities and see what's in store for me out there.

D: How would you compare

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



the news and current affairs system here to what you've been exposed to abroad?

C: Abroad, I've gained a global mindset. Here, we tend to limit our vision to our own plight and dramatize it via sensational stories. But what I admire most about Filipinos is that even at the worst of times, they can still manage to laugh at their problems. The Japanese tend to be so driven by money.

D: What do you miss about working here?

C: The feel. When you are interviewing a *kababayan*, you automatically understand each other even just by looking at his face. When you're talking to a foreigner, you have to exert more effort to get your point across.

D: Any local newscasters you look up to?

C: Loren Legarda.

D: Filipinas are usually thought of as *Japayuki*s when they work in Japan. I don't intend to demean them because I know they have their reasons for opting to be a *Japayuki*. Have you ever encountered any jeers regarding our fellow Filipinas who are into that line of work?

C: I admire their guts and I'm really moved by their stories. They have to endure being away from their families for a long time just to be able to save enough for their future. People must not judge them. I even plan to write a story about *Japayuki*s sometime soon.

D: It must be quite a balancing act being a newscaster who's always on the go, a wife and a mother. What are your first and foremost?

C: I would say a mother. If I were not a newscaster, I would have been a full-time mother. I want to have another baby soon. It's good that Bloomberg is a mom-friendly network. They give you benefits and enough time to go on leave. It's all a matter of prioritizing. Give your all when you're at work and when you're at home, so you don't miss out on anything.

D: A newscaster's job is rather serious. How do you unwind?

C: I goof around with my husband and kid doing the silliest cutesy stuff. To destress, I work out in the gym.

D: Any embarrassing moments on-cam?

C: When I told my guest he had a fly on his nose. They forgot to edit it out, so when the show was aired, that boo-boo was shown. Really funny.

D: What advice would you give aspiring broadcast journalists?

C: It's hard work, so you got to be prepared. Some think it's all glitz and glamor. No way! You have to keep researching. There's no time to be vain. I wake up at 3 a.m. and go to bed at 8 p.m. There's not much time to party.

Personal

ENDLESS thanks to my new-found friends at Cocolife for a swell time in Bohol—Alfredo Tumacder, Daniel Van Soto, Jo Palmones, Fe Reodica, Mara Montes, Jimmy de la Cruz, Mark Soliman.

Thanks to my friendly neighbor Glenford Kalaw for giving me my daily dose of laughter.

For feedback, e-mail friends at dsquare@yahoo.com or jaimeal-san@yahoo.com

HARDLY can you find anything common among actress Angel Aquino, musical director Gerard Salonga and sports buff Lucky Manzano, aside from the fact that they are celebrities in their own right.

But when it comes to audio-video technology, Angel, Gerard and Lucky share a lifestyle using the modern gadgets and gizmos of Sony at work and at home.

The three celebrities came for the interactive Sony multi-modular exhibit last Sunday at Glorietta. In areas where their living and entertainment spaces were recreated, the stars displayed how they fuse Sony's modern technology with their respective lifestyles.

Angel, who was ensconced in her comfort zone featuring the digital home theater system, attests she grew up on Sony products.

"My first TV was a Sony," the actress says. "I've used a lot of Sony products from the walkman to the CD player and the video cam. With my digital home theater system, there's more reason for me to stay home and watch movies on video."

Home theater

Angel's home theater system is equipped with a Sony Wega TV set and DVD player with state-of-the-art speakers which boast digital cinema sound, for ultimate viewing pleasure.

An ideal rhythm room was installed for Gerard, complete with his MD walkman MP3 players.

The Berklee College of Music summa cum laude graduate says Sony equipment has been a common fixture in his work in and out of the house. In doing musical arrangements for concerts, Gerard has relied on Sony's audio technology. He also uses high-quality Sony recordable blank CDs to store his music work.

Lucky was entrenched in his enviable stretch station, equipped with a mini-component sound system, TV set and even a mini-disc, which are all perfect "companions" while doing his regular workouts.

The equally popular son of Edu Manzano and Vilma Santos admits to having been a Sony aficionado for a long time now.

Eunice Gan, Sony marketing supervisor for home audio category, points out the decision of Sony to get celebrity talents was prompted by how Filipino consumers strongly patronize products endorsed by popular faces.

"The consumer market in the Philippines is so celebrity-oriented, that's why they we chose



prominent names to be identified with our products," Gan says.

"We want to package Sony as a lifestyle and not just a box normally found in one's living room or bedroom. We want to add more dimension to one's lifestyle and create real entertainment."

The Sony showcase and multi-modular exhibit serves to introduce to the Philippine market the latest, top-of-the-line products of Sony, normally only available before in Japan, Hong Kong or Singapore.

"We want to bring everything to the Philippines and make all Sony products available here," says Sony managing director Mr. Umeyama. "We acknowledge the Philippines as a big market for Sony."

Product name

More importantly, the exhibit reinforces the product name (Sony), which has been a market leader worldwide when it comes to audio-visual technology.

Futuristic booths include a fully functional mini-theater, featuring Sony blockbusters and an array of listening stations.

Most of the equipment on display boast MP3 technology, which is now made available in Sony.

"MP3 is the audio reproduction technology that allows more music tracks or sound files to be saved on CD, mini-disc or computer hard drive space," explains Umeyama.

"That means over 10 hours of music or about 130 songs from a single CD."

The special live event was hosted by Claudine Trillo and Marc Nelson. At night, Rivermaya treated the public to a free concert.

The exhibit runs until today at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Leah Salterio

CELEBRITIES FOR SONY

Sony managing director Mr. Umeyama, actress Angel Aquino, celebrity son Lucky Manzano, McCann Erickson Philippines senior account executive Sheila Balingit, music director Gerard Salonga and Sony Philippines marketing supervisor for home audio category Eunice Gan.



RHYTHM ROOM. Music director Gerard Salonga synchronizes with host Claudine Trillo.

SECOND WEEK!
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.

PG-13

Ellijah Wood
Mandy Moore
Franka Potente

Try Seventeen

PENSHOPPE SOLA



COMFORT ZONE. Angel Aquino in her corner, with event host Marc Nelson.



STRETCH STATION. Lucky Manzano in a huddle with Trillo.

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PG-13

Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!

Ring
Ghosts of Evil

"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!"

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Roño, Yllana face civil case in Cebu for alleged non-payment of luxury cars

By Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Cebu-City based car dealer on Tuesday sued a movie director, a talent manager, an actor and a Cebuano producer for allegedly failing to pay for two luxury vehicles obtained from the company last year.

Trans-Eagle, distributor of Diamler-Chrysler vehicles, filed a civil case of replevin against Jose "Chito" Roño Jr., Douglas Quijano, Jomari Yllana and Wesy Quisumbing before the Regional Trial Court.

The firm demanded the return of two units of Chrysler Dodge Durango worth P2.45 million each, which were delivered to Roño, an award-winning director, and actor Yllana on April 4 and April 9, 2002.

Trans Eagle also asked the court to order defendants to jointly pay P1 million in damages and shoulder litigation expenses.

Based on the complaint, Quisumbing, a resident of Cebu City, allegedly had an arrangement with Trans Eagle in March 2002 for the delivery of the vehicles to Roño and Yllana as partial payment for a period film that he



YLLANA

would produce.

Quisumbing, brother of Luis Quisumbing, Trans Eagle's principal stockholder, was supposed to produce a movie about the Balangiga Encounter, successful attack of the natives of Balangiga town, Samar on the United States Army's 9th Infantry Regiment on Sept. 28, 1901. Also called as the Balangiga Massacre, it was the worst single defeat of the US Army during the Philippine-American War.

According to the complaint, Quisumbing allegedly became



ROÑO

"evasive" when the firm demanded payment for the two vehicles.

Quisumbing allegedly claimed that he had no part in the release of these vehicles to Roño and Quijano, the complaint said.

Trans Eagle then wrote separate letters to Roño and Yllana, asking them to pay for the luxury vehicles.

The two sent separate letters to Quisumbing, copies of which were attached to the complaint.

In a letter dated Nov. 4, 2002, Roño told Quisumbing that he was surprised that Trans Eagle

demand payment for the vehicle because it was a partial payment of his fee for directing the movie "Balangiga."

He said the producer had not paid him his fee as agreed upon.

Yllana, for his part, said in a letter dated Oct. 25, addressed to a certain "Señorita," that the vehicle "was supposed to be in exchange for the plan of putting up a racing team, which you asked me to work on."

The vehicle, the actor added, would also serve as payment for the movie project.

For reason not clear to Trans Eagle, the vehicle that was to be delivered to Yllana was registered in the name of Quijano, Yllana's talent manager.

But Quijano told the INQUIRER yesterday that he had nothing to do with vehicle because the transaction was between Quisumbing and Trans Eagle.

He confirmed that these vehicles were down payment for the movie. "Di pa kami nagsimula pero tuloy ang pelikula (We have not started filming yet but the movie will push through)," Quijano said.

With a report from
Connie E. Fernandez, PDI
Visayas Bureau



FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST

A glamorous Regine Velasquez arrives at the MTV Asia Awards in Singapore, where she was named favorite music artist (Philippines). The annual show pays tribute to some of the popular musicians in the region. The winners were chosen by ballot from the viewers' votes.

REUTERS

'Mano Po' through Chinoy eyes

By Edna See
Contributor

MUCH HAS been said about "Mano Po," declared best picture in last December's controversy-ridden Metro Manila Film Festival.

And yet, as far as I know, no review of the Joel Lamangan movie has been written by a member of the Chinese Filipino community, which the film was all about.

This piece does not claim to speak for that community as a whole, but it comes from one who is a part of it.

Philippine cinema has propagated the stereotype Chinese character: comical, greedy, exploitative. With one film, Regal Entertainment tried to erase all that. With compassion and understanding, "Mano Po" portrays a Chinese family and the dilemmas its members face in a threatening environment. It also poignantly dramatizes the inner conflicts that are common to Chinese Filipinos.

That Lily Monteverde, a Chinese Filipino, took a big financial gamble in producing this film is praiseworthy. But more praiseworthy is the fact that the creative force behind the picture, director Lamangan and writer Roy Iglesias, succeeded in presenting the Chinese character with profound insights even if the two are not Chinese. That signifies an act of reaching out across the cultural divide.

Balance

Iglesias writes his characters with utmost sensitivity, investing them with inner complexity. The outside story of power, prejudice, and the Chinese Filipino ethos of political neutrality is balanced by the inner/emotional story of self doubt, defiance, loss and love.

Vera (Maricel Soriano) is tough as nails. She is the controlling type, her personality shaped in part by her being the eldest of three sisters in a family conditioned by a culture that gives more importance to men than to women. Pressured to prove her-



POIGNANT DRAMA. "Mano Po" portrays a Chinese family with compassion and understanding, starring Eddie Garcia, Boots Anson-Roa (front), with Ara Mina, Maricel Soriano and Kris Aquino (standing behind).

self worthy of her father's trust and confidence to run their business empire, she has become a strong woman who always projects toughness. Yet an intimation of her softness shows through in her scenes with her broad-minded boyfriend, Emerson.

The middle child Juliet, played convincingly by Kris Aquino, is submissive but not timid. She questions Vera's harshness, though she does it in her gentle ways. She is always ready to extend a helping hand, playing good big sister to Richelle only to find their guardian and ward roles switched in the kidnapping sequence where she turns to Richelle for strength.

Richelle (Ara Mina), the rebellious sister, personifies the contradictions of today's Chinoyos. Though as strong-willed as Vera, she is unlike her in that Richelle is ready to defy cultural strictures in order to have the freedom to be what she wants to be.

At least three of my Chinoy friends coming from an all-daughter household identified with the Vera character. Majority of my fe-

male Chinoy friends saw themselves in Juliet, although many of them would like to be Richelle, if they only had her courage.

Discrimination

But I found myself relating to the character of Linda, brilliantly performed by Amy Austria. The story of Linda, the aunt of the three sisters, is told in flashbacks. She had fallen in love with a Pinoy activist named Tonyo and was ostracized by the family, only to be welcomed back when Tonyo disappeared.

Linda is a victim of discrimination in her own clan. Her subplot enriches the narrative, giving it a distinct emotional resonance.

One peripheral character is Jimmy, the half-brother who is a stutterer. I presume that his character is a metaphor for the inarticulate sector of the Chinese community in the Philippines—the poor Chinoyos. In making him a stuttering *anak sa labas*, Jimmy is made to look like an outsider in his own ethnic community. In the end, he serves the meaningful role of the chronicler.

The inarticulate character

gives his ethnic group a "voice" in his video. Perhaps next time, the story of the poor Chinoyos will find its way to the big screen.

The film does have its flaws, like Eddie Garcia's Luis Go speaking English with a Japanese accent, or a small duffel bag being used to contain the huge ransom money, but these are minor flaws.

Meaning

Which is the better movie, "Dekada '70" or "Mano Po"?

I watched "Dekada," too, and I found it just as compelling, despite some minor flaws. But unlike those who allowed themselves to be carried away by the hysteria of the controversy, I look at the two films and consider myself—and Philippine cinema—doubly blessed.

Why can't we embrace both movies as significant and excellent? Why do we have to bash one to promote the other? Is this our crab mentality at work? Why be partisan, when in the final analysis it is Filipino cinema that is enriched by having two, instead of just one, socially significant movies?

Personally, however, I find "Mano Po" more meaningful—and this is not to downgrade the achievement of "Dekada." The latter makes us remember an important chapter in our history, but we are not wanting in materials that serve the same purpose: the docu "Batas Militar" and the book "Days of Disquiet, Nights of Rage," to name just two, plus the many magazine features and TV docu that come out during the anniversary of Edsa 1.

The Chinoy problem has never been adequately tackled in print, video or film. It has not been written about in the papers and the only time we are made aware of it is when a Chinese is kidnapped and killed. "Mano Po" has tried to open our eyes to the reality of the Chinoyos, their problems and struggles, and their role in Philippine society.

We are grateful to producer Lily Monteverde, director Joel Lamangan and writer Roy Iglesias for this wonderful film.

Spice of life on TV

VARIETY is supposed to be the spice of life, but local viewers are proving that dictum wrong by watching three hours' worth of local telenovelas each month, as well as more hours of imported soaps at different times of the telecasting day.

Why so many telenovelas, all in a row? That's the big question asked by some TV people these days. If they had their druthers, they admit that they would prefer to work on other program types, but current viewers' preferences just won't let them.

The telenovela craze started with the popularity of imported soaps like "Mari Mar" in the '90s. Those Latin-American telenovelas quickly became popular locally because they were escapist, made use of Cinderella themes, starred lovely blondes and brunettes, paced their storytelling faster than their Pinoy counterparts, and featured exotic settings and lavish lifestyles.

All too quickly, local soap operas copied the Latin-American telenovelas' best features, and added major local star value, which the imported soaps didn't have (except for Thalia and a few locally-recognized luminaries).

That star value made the early Pinoy soaps popular, and eventually, they surpassed the popularity of the foreign shows that had been their early touchstones.

Then, as the two leading channels (2 and 7) competed fiercely against each other for those prized ratings that both TV people and advertisers die for, it was soon decided that the major bone of contention was turning out to be the nightly soaps, and the networks decided to concentrate their biggest guns on them.

The feeling was, the channel that came up with the most popular soaps would symbolically be declared winner of the total programming war.

At first, only a couple of soaps were involved, but the battle soon bled over into the timeslot that came before and after them. The soap craze then spread like cancer, despite the huge costs involved in mounting a major soap opera that is calibrated to run for at least two years, making a fortune in advertising revenue for the channels that have the deep pockets to produce them.

Thus, we now have the unique programming phenomenon of hours of TV time devoted nightly to soap operas. The format being self-limiting, it's embarrassing to see that competing soaps pretty

VIEWFINDER

Nestor
U. Torre



much subscribe to the same clichés, and sometimes slavishly copy each other's plotlines.

Thus, we have competing soaps all making heavy use of "surprise" family relationships, sweethearts who turn out to be siblings, siblings who are actually only half-brother and sister, intense rivalry, fierce revenge motivations, grotesquely-lurid villains, complicated medical problems, accidents, mental illness, amnesia—in fact, anything and everything just to come up with a cliffhanger at the end of every nightly episode.

It's much too much, of course and also much too little because there's little believability to the elements that support all those clichés and excesses. Which explains why the soap fad has seen better days on the tube, and not a few viewers (and TV people) have frankly gotten sick and tired of it.

So, the day may not far off when soaps will end their reign on the tube, and their passing may even be cheered instead of mourned. For, truth to tell, the stereotypes, complications and excesses they have made popular have further compromised the already questionable level of dramaturgy on the TV screen.

On the plus side, the soaps have provided employment and well-deserved, comebacks for many of our truly gifted senior stars, and have also launched some talented young talents' careers. But their excesses far outweigh the positive developments they have encouraged.

As local soaps reach the end of their salad days on TV, we hope against all hope that the shows that replace them will be fresher and more varied, to give evening TV buffs the different program choices that they need to keep from getting into a viewing rut, as they have for some years now.

On Star Movies

WATCH out for these film treats on Star Movies next month (all at 9 p.m.)

"Planet of the Apes" starring Mark Wahlberg on Sunday, Feb. 2. "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" with Johnny Depp on Feb. 4. "Men in Black" on Feb. 5.

Robertson Brothers to hold Valentine show at Hard Rock

POP music has given the world many famous sibling acts. There's Donny and Marie Osmond, Richard and Karen Carpenter, The Corrs, The Bee Gees, Hanson and The Moffats, to name a few.

This February, another famous sibling act is set to make its debut in Manila. Geoff, Stuart and Ben Robertson, more popularly known as the Robertson brothers of Australia, will perform in a Valentine's Day show, Feb. 14 at Hard Rock Café in Makati City.

The brothers sang John Lennon's "Imagine" at the opening ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympic

Games. They are well-known in their native Australia and in several Southeast Asian countries—thanks to their hit single, "The Last Love Song," which went to number five on several Indonesian charts without any CD release or radio airplay.

The Robertson Brothers will be joined by former South Border vocalist Luke Mejares, Chronic and Nina.

The show, "Love, Soul and Harmony," is sponsored by Love Radio, Mossimo, Lipton Ice Tea and Wrangler.

For details and ticket inquiries, call Hard Rock Café at 893-4661 to 64.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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B1



Exports may have been overstated—BSP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday admitted that it might have overstated the country's export data.

It made the admission during a congressional hearing that is investigating the central bank's understatement of import figures.

House oversight committee chair Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda said the BSP officials admitted to the overvaluation to explain the unusually large amount of overseas investments made by residents, which reached a total of \$47.8

billion from 1999 to 2001. The BSP officials also said the residents' investment abroad were "conscious portfolio decisions."

During the hearing, it was hinted that some big export firms could have bloated their export data considering that most of their shipments were done on a consignment basis. The BSP has promised to look into this anomaly.

But Salceda said the amount stated in the residents' investments abroad in the balance-of-payments data were too big to be explained solely by misdeclaration of exports. He noted that the National Statistics Office reported that the Philippines had a net value added of 44 percent for electronics, which meant that at least \$11.4 billion of the \$26 billion in electronic exports should have been retained in the country.

"It could be possible that the huge capital flowing out of the country is actually repatriated

capital pretending to be trade receivables," Salceda said.

Dissatisfied with the BSP's explanation, Salceda has asked the BSP and the Bankers Association of the Philippines to come up with their respective position papers on the glaring errors committed in the computation of the BOP—a key economic barometer used by banks and traders in measuring the country's economic stability.

Salceda said it was important to determine the flaws of the statistical methodology used in coming up

with the highly anticipated BOP

"The whole statistical system's credibility is under siege because of this statistical problem. Getting the statistics right would be a step toward better policy decision," Salceda said.

The congressional probe began when the BSP admitted that it might have overstated the current account surplus since 2000 due to the understatement of import figures. The BSP later adjusted its BOP data but the damage in terms of confidence in the integrity of the country's statistics had already been done.

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.755 \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 29, 2003

Y 118.14 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 29, 2003

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BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

is about the money.

This cute administration does not like the idea that a group of people can rob us blind just like that. We all will pay for everything, eventually.

Every time each of the 8 million or so OFWs use the airport, they pay through higher ticket rates and such.

Of course all the businesses, such as airlines and cargo companies, which will use the terminal, will have to pass on the fantastic cost of building it to the public, who else?

Your families and friends pay for it through, say, hold-up prices of coffee at the terminal or the highway robbery fees to the airlines here and there.

Yet the new lawyer of Piatco, a certain Chavez, tells us that the contract was alright because some of our genius lawmakers already said that the project was clean.

They are the same guys, by the way, who are rooting for Cha-cha. How about we cook your balls, first, gentlemen?

ABOUT 10 years ago, when the idea of a new world-class airport terminal was first broached, they said the "original" cost could reach \$200 million.

Today the cost of the same terminal is going at close to \$650 million, but still counting, and if you consider that famous one-liner in the contract, it could hit \$1 billion.

That's more than P50 billion. Even for this cute administration, which incurs deficits of more than P200 billion a year, that may be a lot of money.

So there—"orig" is \$250 million, but "non-orig" is \$1 billion. What happened between \$250 million and \$1 billion must be worth looking into through an audit.

What happened is worth \$750 million. Where did all the money go? Me, I volunteer to give a day's wage to pay for an audit. How come none is forthcoming?

NO wonder, 10 years after the bright idea was first brought up, the terminal is not yet finished. So what is it with airports?

We have another unfinished airport—an international airport, at that. I don't know if we must give up flying altogether.

Also on the brink of disaster is the airport project in Davao City. It seems only yesterday, but it was actually five years ago, when the government started the project.

It seems the project is on hold, because the government is waiting for the clowns involved in the project to settle their dispute.

Something went wrong in the construction. Whole slabs of concrete cracked worse than the voice of teen-age actors in the afternoon teevee soap.

STILL to be decided by the court is who should own the blame for that, as FPJ would probably put it, "wrong mistake."

The contractor is a Korean company, which actually hired an American designing firm, which in turn hired a Filipino design engineer.

Why our government did not just go straight to the Filipino engineer, we cannot say for sure, because we might offend the foreign creditors which demanded to give the contract to foreign companies.

From what I heard, anyway, all along, the Department of Transportation and Communications knew defects in the design, and it did not do anything. Wow!

SOME people who value my opinion called me. "Hoy, Mister Know-It-All," they all said, in an obvious attempt to flatter me, "why is that restaurant in Tagaytay so full?"

That restaurant in Tagaytay is none other than "Antonio's," where, I heard, you have to wait for the next life to make a reservation.

It may be good food, I told my admirers, or it may be the ambience, or it may be plain and simple marketing. I mean, who knows?

People do fall in line for a good movie, and so why not for a good meal?

And they all said, "but why doesn't that restaurant even know how to respond when you text them?" Beats me, too. Sirit!

WELL, it seems you only send messages on the cell phone to make a restaurant reservation nowadays.

A typical request for reservation for four on Feb. 1 would go, "rsv 4 4 n 2/1," to which Antonio's would reply, "no available." That's it.

So what's the latest available date, cupid, that's what the customers in effect want to know. Today, the restaurant is enjoying this thing called snob appeal. It is an effective marketing tool, particularly if it is enhanced by newspaper articles.

Thing is, nothing lasts forever, even the popularity of a restaurant. The long lasting ones always depend on regular customers, and not just faddish appeal.

Maybe the guys at Antonio's want to separate the real good customers from the just curious ones. But how do you find out? Eventually people will also get tired of guessing what's the next available date for a reservation.

Me, I have no problem with this gourmet meal called pares.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, January 29, 2003)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	20,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36	36.5	35.5	35.5	225,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable P&T Bank Inc.	28	28	28	28	10,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	30	30	65,500
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	20,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	17,700
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	18,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	110,000
Philippine Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	170,000
Manila Financial Corp.	1195	1205	1195	1205	4,010
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	950	935	950	1,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	31,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	505	495	505	8,830
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	8,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	305	305	295	295	56,480
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	6,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	345,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	2,813,000
Patron Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.86	1,877,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	750,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,060,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	152,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	100,000
William, Gothong & Abolito	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	14,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	16.75	16.75	349,200
La Tondeta Distillers Inc.	34	34	34	34	110,400
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	64	64	163,800
San Miguel Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Vitacorp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.25	481,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	106,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	270,000
PHN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Benares Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	2,720,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	60,000
Edecom Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.1	160,000
Ionics Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	110,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	110,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	800,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	280,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Philinvest Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	4,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	100,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	70,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	2,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2,000
Arduine Labs Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.33	4,720,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	18,000
Manila Jockey Club	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	920,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.75	13	12.5	12.5	82,000
Golden Warrants	8	8	8	8	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	286,000
C & P Homes Inc.	5	5	5	5	690,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,000,000
Philinvest Land Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.91	860,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	210,000
Kook Phil. Properties	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	1,009,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	4,653,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	5,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	21,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Philix Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	460,000
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	45,000,000
The Philodini Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	40,000
Pacific	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
SHARES					
Bank & Fin Svc	684,580	684,580	684,580	684,580	26,174,125.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	31,162,110	31,162,110	31,162,110	31,162,110	101,310,132.00
Mining	46,930,000	46,930,000	46,930,000	46,930,000	1,750,850.00
Oil	22,040,000	22,040,000	22,040,000	22,040,000	241,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	159,927,690	159,927,690	159,927,690	159,927,690	154,037,750.00
AVERAGES					
Bank & Fin Svc	374.87	374.87	374.87	374.87	UP 0.83
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,485.32	1,485.32	1,485.32	1,485.32	DOWN 0.79
PRO	248.71	248.71	248.71	248.71	DOWN 0.27
Mining	1,335.71	1,335.71	1,335.71	1,335.71	DOWN 28.70
Oil	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	629.46	629.46	629.46	629.46	DOWN 1.98
Composite	1,039.26	1,039.26	1,039.26	1,039.26	UP 3.69

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 1,156

DISCLOSURES

THE CHANGE in the sector of **Central Azucarera de la Carlota**, now **CADP Group Corp.**, from manufacturing to holding firms will be reflected on Jan. 31.

ABOLITO Equity Ventures Inc. will pre-pay by Feb. 28, 2003, all the promissory notes it issued last Dec. 9 to the minority shareholders who participated in its tender offer to purchase William, Gothong and Abolito Inc. shares. Total amount to be paid is P929.98 million, exclusive of interests.

EEL Corp. disclosed the resignation of Diosdado Macapagal Jr. as one of the independent directors of the company.

THE BOARD of **Philstar.com Inc.** appointed Arlo Sarmiento as new chief operations officer of the company effective immediately.

PANCAKE House Inc. sold its Pancake House outlet in Ortigas Ave. corner Madison St., San Juan to Joyce Ann Foods Corp.

ELECTED directors of **Central Azucarera de Tarlac** were Pedro Cojuangco, Josephine Reyes, Jose Cojuangco Jr., Ernesto Teopaco, Jose Manuel Lopa, Georg Weber-Hoehli and Fulgencio Factoran Jr. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Jan. 29, 2003	Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency
	United States	Dollar	0.923873	1.000000	53.701000
	Japan	Yen	0.007789	0.008431	0.452800
	United Kingdom	Pound	1.515706	1.640600	88.101900
	Hongkong	Dollar	0.118457	0.128218	6.885400
	Switzerland	Franc	0.680670	0.736757	39.564600
	Canada	Dollar	0.604629	0.654450	35.144600
	Singapore	Dollar	0.532983	0.576901	30.980200
	Australia	Dollar	0.543614	0.588408	31.598100
	Bahrain	Dinar*	2.450722	2.652661	142.455000
	Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.246373	0.266674	14.322600
	Brunei	Dollar	0.531450	0.575242	30.899200
	Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000113	0.000100
	Thailand	Baht	0.021632	0.023414	1.253400
	UAE	Dirham	0.251545	0.272272	14.622600
	Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.082400	58.120000
	Argentina	Peso	0.278275	0.301205	16.170000
	Brazil	REAL	0.253811	0.274725	14.750000
	Denmark	Kroner	0.134538	0.145624	7.820000
	India	Rupee	0.019320	0.020912	1.120000
	Malaysia	Ringgit	0.243157	0.263193	14.133000
	Mexico	New Peso	0.084464	0.091424	4.900000
	New Zealand	Dollar	0.505069	0.546687	29.350000
	Norway	Kroner	0.133959	0.144897	7.760000
	Pakistan	Rupee	0.015917	0.017229	0.920000
	South Africa	Rand	0.105755	0.114469	6.140000
	Korea	Won	0.000786	0.000851	0.040000
	Sweden	Kroner	0.108148	0.117059	6.220000
	Syria	Pound	0.017939	0.019417	1.040000
	Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026771	0.028977	1.550000
	Venezuela	Bollivar	0.000481	0.000521	0.000500

Day spa pioneer still on top of the heap

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE look through most of the spas that have been sprouting all over Metro Manila and you will see that they share a more or less common look: minimalist with influences from Japanese design and architecture.

The spa that first defined this look—indeed one of the pioneers in the booming spa industry—is Zen, which has been providing affordable spa services since 1993.

SUCCESS STORY

Zen owner Desiderio Hebron tells the INQUIRER there were just a few spas offering massage services when he opened his first branch at the fifth floor of the SM Megamall, and none were located in a commercial establishment like a mall.

The Zen branch in Megamall, thus, became an instant hit.

The "day spa" became instantly popular because Filipinos became more health conscious and wanted to pamper themselves a bit more after putting in several hours of work in the office, Hebron explains.

It was a gamble that paid off for Hebron, who actually planned to put up a medical center similar to what his family had been operating in the United States and later in the Philippines.

Hebron, who was born and raised in the United States, said he decided to change his business plan after seeing a massage chair on CNN.

He thought it was a novel way of giving a massage and should click with Filipinos who wanted a massage but were not willing to pay the steep price charged by the other spas.

The economic boom that the Philippines experienced at the time also encouraged him to invest in the spa business.

A way of life

Hebron's formula was simple: providing customers with the best-quality massage at affordable prices and letting them enjoy the tasteful décor and privacy offered by Zen's day spa.

Providing customers with value for their money has sustained the business through hard times, particularly after 1998, when the Asian currency crisis wreaked havoc on the economy and forced Filipinos to tighten their belts, Hebron said.

Also adding pressure to the business is the proliferation of day spas in the metropolis, all with almost the same look that Zen has made popular among frequent spa guests.

Hebron, however, is confident that Zen will stay on despite the increased competition, saying his spa has already developed a reputation for providing quality service. As he says, Zen is a service center that caters to a different need and market.

Professionals account for the bulk of Zen's clientele, those in their late 20s to 40s, more than half of whom are men. These are the people whose lifestyle already includes a massage.

"Massage has become a way of life. It is no longer just a luxury," he said.

All about reputation

Zen offers three kinds of therapeutic massage. Shiatsu is a dry massage that focuses on key pressure points to relieve tired muscles. The more popular Swedish makes use of oils to knead muscles, while aromatherapy involves applying various essential oils to stimulate certain moods.

One of its most popular services, however, is the "chair massage"—a 20-minute seated backrub massage that can be received fully clothed while seated.



THE ZEN-DEFINED spa look: minimalist with influences from Japanese design and architecture.

Reflexology and foot treatments are also available.

"I believe that it is all about reputation. People know that we have been around for some time and the reason is service. The place is good, and they know that they are going to get what they paid for. We are not expensive, but we are not cheap either. We go for that market that looks for quality," Hebron says.

Japanese architecture

Addressing this market required Zen to take extra care of its interiors. It had to live up to its name. "Zen" is a branch of Buddhism that focuses on deep meditation.

Hebron said Zen was designed to generate a feeling of well being among clients the moment they step through its doors. Dry saunas, hot and cold showers, and separate facilities for men and women were provided and positioned to guarantee privacy.

Zen currently has two branches: one at the Festival Mall and its main office in Fort Bonifacio. The Megamall branch was closed after SM decided against renewing Zen's lease.

"I have always wanted to put up Zen where it could be accessible," Hebron said.

Good location, quality service and affordable prices are what Hebron hopes will keep Zen going strong despite competition.

"It is difficult to separate Zen from the others because a lot offer the same thing, and it is not difficult to start one. There is also no shortage of people who could be trained. I guess people will just have to try us to know the difference that we provide," he says.

Hebron expects that a few more day spas will be opening up this year, although some will inevitably close down and some will stay.

Zen, he says, will stay.



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Digitel says cell service all set for soft launch

By Abigail L. Ho

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has said it can launch its cellular service anytime, with or without an interconnection agreement with other mobile phone service providers.

"We're actually 'push button.' We can launch anytime now even without interconnection," a highly placed company official told the INQUIRER.

He declined, however, to give an exact date for the launch, saying only that it would be "soon" but not necessarily on Feb. 1.

Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.—an offshoot of the Gokongwei's Luzon landline business—is currently preparing for the commercial launch of its services.

Hampered by interconnection issues in the past, Digitel shelved plans to venture into the mobile phone business a number of times before spinning off a new company, Digitel Mobile.

The fledgling cellular firm, however, has yet to hurdle a government requirement before it can proceed with its commercial launch.

The National Telecommunications Commission said Digitel

and Digitel Mobile would have to seek its approval for the sale of Digitel's cellular assets and the transfer of its provisional authority to operate a mobile phone company to the spin-off firm.

"Although (Digitel) hasn't made a manifestation yet, there's a big possibility that they'll transfer their (cellular mobile telephone system) to another franchise because some investors would not want to invest in a company engaged in the landline business," NTC common carrier authorization department chief Edgardo Cabarios said in an interview on Tuesday.

He said Digitel would have an easier time getting a strategic partner for Digitel Mobile if it would detach the wireless firm from its landline business.

"It will be more feasible for them to work under a separate franchise," he said.

Cabarios said Digitel Mobile would be unable to operate 100 percent without any interconnection agreements with the country's existing cellular service providers.

MOTERING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Your car versus your fuel

By Tessa R. Salazar

LEAD brings poison in the air. Found in the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles, it is widely believed the most harmful toxin, especially for children because it adversely affects their nervous system, reduces their IQs, and slows down motor skills. The phase-out of leaded gasoline on April 1, 2000 was expected to improve this problem.

But poisonous as it is to the human body, lead plays a different role in your car's engine. Lead prevents engine knocking. Removing lead affects the octane rating of the gasoline, because lead is one of its essential ingredients. There is a need, then, to replace the lost octane lead had provided to gasoline.

Happy ending

Removing lead may mean a happy ending for humanity, but it isn't for your car. No lead replacements mean no correct performance of the engine.

Lead replacement additives (LRAs) come in different forms. LRAs, however, are required to be environmentally acceptable and

economically justifiable. Oil manufacturers have been pushing for LRAs such as MMT (methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl) and MMTE (methyl tertiary butyl ether).

So, has there been finally a happy ending for motorists? Not yet. Since these LRAs came into the picture, so has the controversy surrounding them.

Opposition

The use of MMT as fuel additive has been opposed by international car industries. However, it is believed that MMT has found its way to the gasoline mixtures of certain oil companies in the Philippines.

Just recently, test data results have been accumulated by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers regarding the effects of MMT. This additive is used as a lead (tetra ethyl lead or TEL) replacement to boost the octane rating of gasoline.

To restore the octane level of gasoline and restore its performance, MMT was developed by the Ethyl Corp., the same company that once owned the technology to produce lead additives. However, previous tests had showed that the additive interfered with the performance of the vehicle's emission devices, resulting in the devices' failure. The auto industry in the United States and Canada then banned the use



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

of the additive for reasons of product liability (emission device warranties).

Source of controversy

This has been a source of controversy between the car manufacturers and the oil companies ever since. The Clean Air Act states that "The DTI shall promulgate the necessary regulations prescribing the useful life of vehicles and engines including devices to ensure that such vehicles will conform to the emissions which they were certified to meet." A source from the auto in-

dustry said this would be what the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) would invoke when they raise the issue against the use of MMT.

MMT and MTBE are still being evaluated worldwide. There are reports in California that MTBE has been banned. MMT, particularly, is said to affect the catalytic converters of vehicles.

A source from the Philippine Institute of Petroleum Inc. who refused to be named said there are initial issues on the effects of MMT on catalytic converters.

These have not been established yet, but these are initial concerns.

"These are being evaluated. Sooner or later, one must have a regular LRA," the source said.

Asked what LRAs the oil companies are using now, the source said that these LRAs are privy to the oil companies. Under the law they divulge it only to the Department of Energy.

"If I were an oil supplier, oil marketer, importer, naturally I will choose something that is economically justifiable, economically viable and functions what is

supposed to do to the octane enhancement of gasoline and make sure it does not violate any environmental laws under the Clean Air Act," he said.

Unfortunately, the further removal of benzene (from 3 to 2 percent) and aromatics (45 to 35 percent) in gasoline, which also has a function of enhancing the octane rating of gasoline, because of environment concerns, is another cause for concern for oil companies. They have to look for their replacements. This while the issue of LRAs haven't been fully settled yet.

Auto Extreme launches 'Overdrive' bar tour

AUTO Extreme, the hottest TV car show, takes to the road to meet its fans—live—all over Metro Manila in a bar tour series titled "Overdrive."

In cooperation with San Miguel Beer and NU107, the tour will run for six Fridays at six different bars and clubs, featuring live music from such bands as Kapatid, Indio I, Widouji and Radio Active Sago Project.

Souped-up cars will also be on display courtesy of Atoy Llave of A-Toy Body Kits & Car Care Products. Lucky audience members will also get a chance to win prizes from Race Gear, Castrol GTX and San Miguel Beer. Hosts of Auto Extreme will also be around to greet the crowd.

Overdrive, The Auto Extreme Bar Tour will run from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight and goes to 1055 (Metropolitan Avenue, Makati) on Jan. 31; Eivissa (Puerta Isabel, Intramuros) on Feb. 7; Monk's Dream (Powerplant Mall, Rockwell) on Feb. 21; Culture Club (Libis) on Feb. 28; Xymaca (Timog Avenue, Quezon City) on March 7; and Gerry's Grill (Libis) on March 14.

Listen to NU107 or watch Auto Extreme every Saturday, 4 p.m. on RPN 9 for more details.

First car with integrated 3G-UMTS services

SINGAPORE—Mercedes-Benz, NEC, Siemens mobile and SingTel Mobile jointly showcase the first car with integrated 3G-UMTS services worldwide. This industry-first 3G-UMTS car recently made its debut in Berlin, Germany and is presented in Asia-Pacific for the very first time.

In a specially fitted Mercedes-Benz S-Class, the partners demonstrate a comprehensive portfolio of multimedia services that has become possible through the use of the broadband 3G-UMTS mobile phone standard, based on Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA).

Applications

The 3G-UMTS services in the test vehicle cover a broad range of mobility and infotainment services.

In addition to live video conferencing capabilities between two parties, there is high-speed video-streaming, which facilitates video-on-demand. Other applications include an interactive City Guide, broadband access to the various partners' portals and the Internet, a video monitoring system, access to traffic observation cameras, international radio and a multiplayer soccer game.

The off-board navigation system includes location guide and routing and traffic information in part with video support.

Breakthrough

The unique 3G-UMTS vehicle marks a breakthrough in mobile data applications for businesses as well as entertainment and information offered with video support. Content is transferred to the 3G-UMTS vehicle at an average transmission rate of 256 kBit/s.

UMTS allows a maximum bandwidth in the vehicle of 384 kBit/s, up to six times the normal



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

dial-up speeds. The future vision of live video and music downloads, video telephony and the ingenious off-board navigation system, which uses up-to-date cartographic data via UMTS for destination finding, has become reality in the test vehicle.

Innovation, leadership

The experience offered by this 3G-UMTS car showcase underlines the innovation and leadership of the partners in their respective industry, and will support their efforts to establish their 3G-UMTS business model and to develop future 3G services.

Mercedes-Benz equipped the UMTS test vehicle with the appropriate operating units and monitors, the link to the car infrastructure and the specification of the UMTS services. "The UMTS test ve-

hicle already created huge public interest at its first presentation in Berlin some months ago. It helps us today to create the necessary expertise to satisfy the demand of our customers for mobile UMTS services of the future," said Frank Messer, president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia.

NEC provides the entire solution for the UMTS radio network to the world. In Singapore, NEC has been working with Siemens mobile through the strategic alliance in the 3G business arena in establishing the UMTS infrastructure in the current test 3G network in the CBD (central business district) area since 2001.

"The advent of 3G will lead to many new business opportunities and, apparently, this 3G-UMTS car is one of them," said Ben Nakamura, senior vice president

of NEC Corp. "NEC is the industry leader in the 3G area supplying commercial infrastructure and handsets for the very first phase of 3G rollout in the world. New solution utilizing 3G applications such as 3G-UMTS car will accelerate the expansion of 3G. NEC will fully support this two projects with our extensive technical know-how and expertise in the 3G and mobile Internet field as well as the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) field."

The Siemens Information and Communication Mobile Group (Siemens mobile) supplied the entire technology for the UMTS core network and participated in the development and implementation of the UMTS applications for the test vehicle. "Worldwide Siemens mobile is one of the three leading suppliers for 3G-UMTS infrastructure. Through this demonstration, Siemens is aligning itself fully to 3G-UMTS, the new generation in mobile telecommunications," commented Thomas Frischmuth, managing director, Siemens Pte Ltd. "And we are pleased that we can present, together with our partners here today, innovative new ways to deliver 3G-UMTS services and demonstrate UMTS technology's versatility and adaptability."

SingTel Mobile provided the customization and localization of the applications and content for the 3G-UMTS car showcase. It also undertook the provisioning of the local telecommunications infrastructure.

Potential benefits

Said Lucas Chow, chief executive officer, SingTel Mobile: "Even as we work toward a 3G network rollout, it is important for our customers to see the potential benefits of having faster, more wide-ranging and more innovative applications as promised by a

broadband, high-speed wireless network."

"The 3G-UMTS car showcase today is an excellent example of how we are leveraging convergence across all broadband access platforms to provide our customers with seamless access to an entire suite of services and applications anywhere and anytime... even when you are on the move."

SingTel worked with BMG Singapore Pte Ltd. and Zomba Records (Apro) Pte Ltd. to provide the music videos, and Landmat International to provide the CityGuide available in the 3G-UMTS car for the Singapore showcase.

MediaCorp also provided the Traffic Cam information and Channel 5 content for the Live TV application.

The UMTS S-Class is a pure test vehicle and was equipped especially for this purpose with in-car PCs, with two flip-up 15-inch TFT monitors recessed into the seat backs and wireless keyboards for the use of the 3G-UMTS services in the rear. In a user-friendly way via an in-built touch-screen monitor the driver and front seat passenger can access services such as a navigation. In addition, a live video of recent traffic situations on the route is provided, but switched off automatically above a speed of 6 km/h for safety reasons.

The operating elements, user interfaces and interaction processes in the test vehicle were developed exclusively for the demonstration of the possible UMTS services. They do not correspond with the requirements of a future UMTS solution for serial production of any Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Here DaimlerChrysler attaches the highest level of priority to mature technology and an optimum design of the Man-Machine-Interface (MMI) to rule out any distraction of the driver.

Mitsubishi Motors takes third straight Dakar Rally title

THE MITSUBISHI Pajero Evolution/Montero Evolution crew of Hiroshi Masuoka and Andreas Schulz have won the 2003 Telefonica Dakar Rally in 49 hours, 8 minutes and 52 seconds.

Masuoka's win represents Mitsubishi's third straight Dakar Rally victory and eighth triumph ever, cementing its status as the most successful manufacturer in the 25-year history of the event.

Mitsubishi dominated this year's rally, taking a clean sweep of the top four spots. The all-

French crew of Jean-Pierre Fontenay and Gilles Picard claimed second in their classic Pajero/Montero, while teammates Stephane Peterhansel and Jean-Paul Cottret came in third. Portugal's Carlos Sousa and Henri Magne finished a fine fourth overall in their Mitsubishi L200 Strada.

Sunday's victory by the 42-year-old Masuoka marks his second successive win, making him only the fourth person to win back-to-back titles. He said, "I am so very happy to win this 25th Dakar Rally."

Said a delighted Masuoka: "This year was a great race; it was fast and there were some good stages in Tunisia and Libya. It was hard though. Every day we were doing 160/180 km/h and it was exciting to race against Stephane, but in the second half we were more careful and reduced our speed to save the car. I was waiting in case he made a mistake."

Masuoka's success came in the new model Pajero Evolution which has been developed over the last two years and which de-

buted at the UAE Desert Challenge 2002.

"The car is fantastic. It was developed last year and finished at the end of August. Mitsubishi has worked very hard on the suspension settings. We tested the car for two weeks in Morocco and it showed potential from the start," he added.

"Three overall victories in a row show Mitsubishi Motors' dominance of the world's toughest overland race," said Mitsubishi Motors Corp. president and CEO Rolf Eckrodt. "We are

committed to staying ahead of all our competitors for off-road vehicles also in the future. In the end, it is the customer who benefits from our passion to improve performance year by year."

OVERALL RESULTS

1. H. Masuoka/A. Schulz Mitsubishi — Pajero/Montero Evolution 49.08.52
2. J.-P. Fontenay/G. Picard — Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero 51.01.04
3. S. Peterhansel/J.-P. Cottret — Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero

Evolution 51.25.20
4. C. Sousa/H. Magne — Mitsubishi L200 Strada 51.36.39
5. G. de Villiers/P. Maimon — Nissan Pickup 51.54.47
6. S. Henrard/B. Willis — Volkswagen Tarek 52.51.07
7. A. Vatanen/T. Thorne — Nissan Pickup 53.34.51
8. J. Kleinschmidt/F. Pons — Volkswagen Tarek 57.25.48
9. L. Alphonse/M. Stevenson — BMW X5 58.04.58
10. J.-L. Monderde/R. Tornabell — Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero 58.17.11

What matters most is what's inside

Text and Photos
by Charles E. Buban

PHILIPPINE motor-
ing journalists
should always re-
member this: whenever
you join any Isuzu Philip-
pines out-of-town activity
be prepared physically.

We found this out anew as we
joined the recent Isuzu-Caltex
Fuego Viaje Verde, where we
again worked our idle muscles
trekking the steep bamboo-laden
hills of Verde Island while the
others went deep to check on the
numerous exciting dive sites
around the island.

Verde Island, a small speck of
land (1,625.05 hectares) lying
between the southern part of
Batangas and Calapan, Oriental
Mindoro is the latest venue cho-
sen by Isuzu to introduce the
company's 2003 Isuzu Fuego
4x2.

To get there, you just have to
arrive early in Tabangao, Batan-
gas City or brave the big after-
noon waves while crossing
aboard a 40-seater outrigger for
one hour.

Both 2.8- and 2.5-

liter engines

benefit from

Isuzu's vaunted

direct-injection

diesel technology

More power

For 2003, the popular and ver-
satile rear-wheel-drive Fuego has
been given a more robust 2.8-liter
high-charge turbo-diesel engine.

"Available on the high-end LS
variant, the new Fuego's engine
boasts a maximum output of 100
ps at 3,800 rpm," described Isuzu
Philippines senior manager for
corporate affairs.

This means that more horse-



THE NEW Isuzu Fuego 4x2 is given a more robust 2.8L high-charge turbodiesel engine.

power is available even for those
who prefer to use their pickup be-
yond leveled and paved roads.

"We combined the practicality
of a 4x2 pickup and the power of
a 4x4 pickup in this new Fuego
4x2," said Gonzales.

The standard edition retains
the reliable 2.5-liter naturally-as-
pirated diesel engine with 78 ps
of maximum power and 167 Nm
of maximum torque while both
use a 5-speed manual transmis-
sion.

Di technology

According to Gonzales, both
2.8- and 2.5-liter engines benefit
from Isuzu's vaunted direct-in-
jection diesel technology, result-
ing in more power, cleaner emis-
sions and better fuel efficiency rating
(registered 33.19 km/L fuel con-
sumption in the September 2002
Isuzu Challenge).

Apart from engine perfor-
mance, the 2003 Fuego 4x2 also
shares new exterior make-
over features with the 4x4 ver-
sion.

The new Fuego sports a multi-



THE VIEW our new Fuegos missed: diver's haven Verde Island Resort.

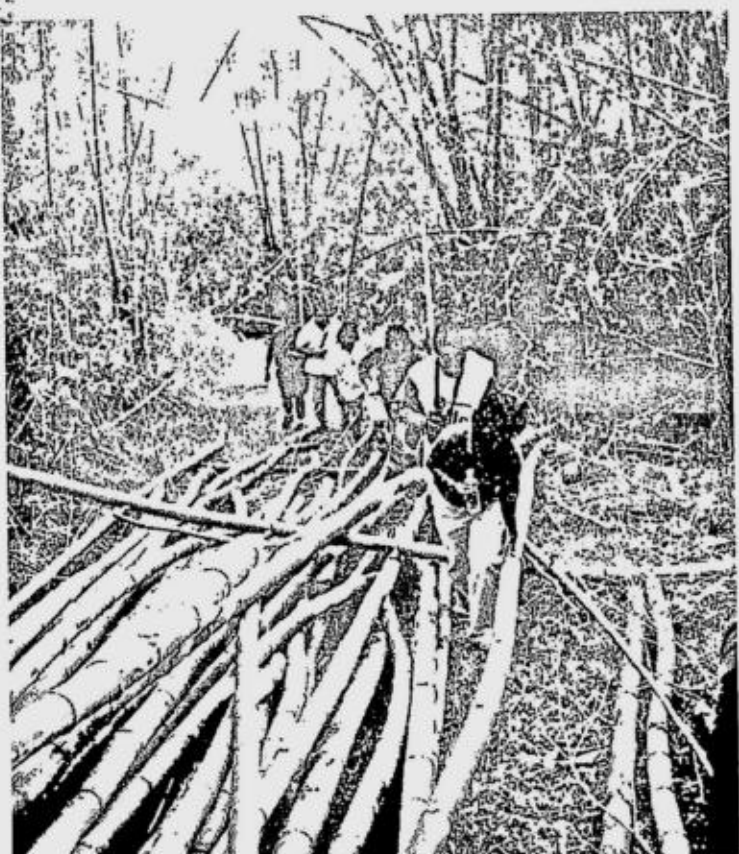
reflector headlamps (halogen
from the 2002 variant) and a new
radiator grille design of gray col-
or with mesh design as compared
to the vertical fins with chrome

garnish of the previous model.

The 2003 Fuego 4x2 LS variant
is equipped with a 235/75 R15
tires and a ground clearance of
195mm—35mm higher than the

2002 model.

The manual 2003 Isuzu Fuego
4x2 LS is priced at P789,000 com-
pared to the standard variant's
P649,000 tag price.



WITH BOTTLED water in hand, the journalists made sure they won't thirst traversing Verde Island's bamboo laden hilltops.

'Nature 4 Sale'

WE all like the air we breathe to
be clean. Only a fool would dis-
agree to that. You have no busi-
ness living in this world if you say
otherwise.

The Clean Air Act is fine. In
fact, even without it, there should
be a conscious effort for all of us
to protect the air that we breathe.
Survival has no need for either
laws or rules.

Alas, many among us do not
know how to appreciate the
blessings this world has been giv-
ing to us. Or we simply refuse to
acknowledge them. Why the
Clean Air Act was born at all is an
indictment of man's propensity to
take his surroundings for granted.
Man is forcing man to live
clean; isn't that something
weird?

But one question: Why are
the citizens being forced to pay
for the air that they breathe?
Isn't the air we breathe for free?
Does this mean we will soon tax
the birds and the bees for the
air that they breathe? Aren't the
best things in life free, as one
line of a song goes?

I refer to the fee that we have
to pay for the "smoke emission
test" that our vehicles have to
go through as a requirement to
vehicle registration.

It's kind of crazy, if you ask
me.

The government is supposed to
be like our mother, who will pro-

FULL
TANK



Al S. Mendoza



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

vide us milk for free. That milk is
unadulterated that is why breast
milk is still the best for infants.
We are all infants, who need
clean air to survive the rigors of
living. When we are forced by law
to pay for a vital cog to our exis-
tence like clean air, I think some-
thing's wrong somewhere.

I do not question the "smoke
emission test" policy. We must be
concerned in our drive to weed
out poison in the air that we
breathe. What I question is, why
must the law (government?) re-

quire us to pay for something that
Nature has given us?

From what I learned since I
was small, Nature is free. God
made Nature for us to enjoy
it—for free.

We pay for the "smoke emis-
sion test" as some sort of punish-
ment for maintaining a vehicle
that poisons the air? Baloney.

Are we also to "punish" ship
owners, whose vessels may also
be emitting poison to pollute
our seas? The sea is also Na-
ture. Will we also soon see ship
owners having their ships
"emission-tested" before they
are declared fit for sea travel?

Are we also to "punish" air-
line owners, whose planes may
also be emitting poison to pol-
lute our atmosphere? The sky is
Nature, too. Will we also soon
see airline owners having their
planes "emission-tested" be-
fore they are declared fit for air
journey?

The ready explanation, I be-
lieve, why we are made to pay for
the "smoke emission test" is that
the government spends for the
gadget used for the test.

Even that doesn't wash.

Common sense tells us that the
government's foremost duty is to
serve and protect the people. Isn't
the government for the people,
by the people and of the people?

Lest I be misunderstood, I am

for the "smoke emission test."

What I am against is the prac-
tice of the government to make
us pay for a job that is inher-
ently government. Is public service
lost to crass commercialism?

I dread the day when I'll have
to pay the government a fee be-
fore I could swim in the river of
my youth. And the reason to be
rammed down our throats is,
the government has finally de-
termined that some folks have
been polluting the river with
their garbage. Even my favorite
beach might soon be declared
"swimmable"—only but for a
fee.

The sign "Nature 4 Sale" isn't
far behind?

Here's something worth ponder-
ing on for those who failed to buy
their dream car last Christmas.
Toyota's zero-interest scheme will
allow you to buy the Altis 1.6J with
a down payment of P73,800 and
the luxurious Altis 1.8G A/T for a
down payment of P108,450. If
these are not bargains, I don't
know what are. The Toyota Finan-
cial Services Philippines is even al-
lowing a monthly payment of
P7,600 for 60 months for the car of
your dreams! There's also an entic-
ing package for the best selling Re-
vo. Call up Ariel "DJ" de Jesus at
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partment works wonders.



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Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets
answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday
in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

How will I know if my spark plugs need to be replaced?

—Rommel Salita of San Fernando, Pampanga

SPARK plugs create the spark that ignites the air and fuel mixture
in your engine. If your vehicle has a hard time starting, is misfir-
ing, is missing and running rough or has low power and poor fuel
mileage—it may be because not all of your spark plugs are firing
properly.

Worn spark plugs can be caused by simple lack of proper ser-
vicing and not changing them at the recommended intervals. Or
they could be eroded by chemical additives in your fuel or be
fouled by carbon, oil or extended high-speed operation. Melting,
insulator breakage, glazing or blistering can also be caused by a
number of things from certain driving conditions to overheating
and detonation.

Part of your regular engine tune-up should include the replace-
ment of the spark plugs and spark-plug wires. Older vehicles are
typically tuned every 40,000 km. But newer ones can go as far as
100,000 to 160,000 km before the first major tune-up. This is also
thanks in part to today's platinum tipped spark plugs. But even if
your vehicle is a newer model, it's still best to check the spark
plugs every 40,000 km.

In all cases of fouling or wear, it is best to replace the plugs. It's
also advisable to replace the entire set, even though only one
plug may be bad. And you should replace the spark-plug wires,
too.

INCREASING LOAD CAPACITY

Making everyone fit in your vehicle

COMPACT cars and sports utility
vehicle were not designed to car-
ry excess luggage other than
what would fit in its trunk.

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than what your vehicle can allow,
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sible to fit your extra load. It can
be installed and removed just as
easily when you don't need the
extra space on top.

You don't have to leave be-
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town trips due to limited space.
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ers, roof boxes, aqua sports car-
riers, baskets and special load
carriers are now available in the
country.

"Thule roof racks are designed
in collaboration with the world's
leading car manufacturers. Every
Thule product is a perfect fit,"

says Erwin Versoza, president of
Thule/EGR Philippines during
last week's launch. The Thule
showroom is at Equitable Bank
Building at Ortigas Avenue cor-
ner Roosevelt Street, Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila.
TSalazar

2003 Revo SR

From page B5

matic transmission shifts from
second to third gear with sub-
stantial effort and noise. On the
other hand, AUVs are not de-
signed for high performance but
for the reliable, comfortable
transportation of 10 people (in-
cluding driver) or cargo that can-
not be accommodated by a pas-
senger sedan. In this respect, the

attractive and upscale P850,000
Revo SR AT with its luxury en-
hancements fits the bill, and then
some.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER:
The journey of a thousand miles
begins with a broken fan belt and
a flat tire.

E-mail comments to asevil-la@inquirer.com.ph.

FOUR-DECADE LOWS

Fed likely to hold rates steady amid war risks

WASHINGTON—The prospect of an Iraq war and promise of new tax breaks will likely sway Federal Reserve policymakers into holding interest rates at four-decade lows when they end 2003's first rate-setting meeting on Wednesday.

While a recent run of data has shown the US economy remains in a rut with huge job losses, economists believe the central bank must hold off on rate cuts for now and wait out any uncertainties of war.

"There are major concerns that war is coming and it will have a negative impact on the economy. If that is indeed correct, this economy is going nowhere until the Iraqi situation is resolved. And there is nothing the Fed can do about it," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa.

There have already been 12 rate

cuts since the economy sank into recession in 2001 and many analysts believe the central bank will think hard before adding more easing.

They are widely expected to hold rates steady. There are, however, some economists who believe they may shift their assessment of risks facing the economy to say there is a danger of weakness, a warning they dropped late last year.

"They (Fed policymakers) actually don't believe at this juncture that the economy needs that much more stimulus," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio.

Chan and others say the Fed is likely confident Congress will pass some form of fiscal stimulus such as tax breaks intended to boost business spending and economic growth.

Such moves may be in line with a long-term \$670 billion package that the Bush administration has proposed, or with shorter-term proposals put forth by Democrats.

Boosting the US economy was one of the first themes President George W. Bush addressed in his State of the Union speech late on Tuesday.

Even though the economy has appeared vulnerable in recent months, all 22 primary dealers that deal with the Fed anticipated no change in the 1.25 percent federal funds rate, according to a Reuters poll. That rate, which governs overnight loans between banks, is at its lowest since July 1961.

"The Fed is sitting on its hands hoping for the best," said Rory Robertson, interest rate strategist at Macquarie Equities in New York. **Reuters**

US not growing fast enough—Bush

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said on Tuesday the US economy was improving after the setbacks of recent years, but it still was not growing quickly enough.

In his State of the Union speech, Bush touted his \$674 billion stimulus proposal and pledged to focus on job creation.

"We must have an economy that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job," Bush said.

"After recession, terrorist attacks, corporate scandals, and stock market

declines, our economy is recovering -- yet it is not growing fast enough, or strongly enough."

Bush has called for eliminating taxes that investors pay on dividends, accelerating across-the-board rate cuts and providing a \$400-per-child increase in the tax credit for families with children.

The speech, which financial markets had been on tenterhooks for as they awaited any message from the president about Iraq, did not detail any new economic initiatives beyond the stimulus plan the president out-

lined earlier this month.

Rather, Bush pressed his case that the tax cuts in his stimulus plan would spur growth by encouraging business investment and consumer spending.

Critics have denounced Bush's plan as a windfall for the wealthy that would provide little immediate help to the economy and swell the budget deficit.

Attempting to counter such criticism, Bush said: "This tax relief is for everyone who pays income taxes -- and it will help our economy immediately." **Reuters**

Asean seeks boost from trade talks

BRUSSELS—The economies of southeast Asia would get a boost if talks on freeing up world trade began to notch up successes, the head of the countries' regional association said on Tuesday.

The secretary-general of the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) also said the group would continue to pursue bilateral free trade deals while remaining committed to multi-stranded global talks.

"If we free up all these blockages (in the global trade talks), business will be inspired," Ong Keng Yong told Reuters.

"It means that there will be more trade and freer trade and it will definitely bring a more positive climate," he said.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singa-

pore, Thailand and Vietnam.

World Trade Organization (WTO) members are in the second year of the Doha round of trade talks, but deadlines for several issues due to be resolved at the end of 2002 were missed.

These include a deal for developing nations to get access to life-saving drugs and for various kinds of preferential treatment for poorer states when negotiating trade deals.

Major trading powers the United States and European Union are also squabbling over how to liberalize trade in the sensitive area of agricultural products.

Ong said the Doha talks were also being undermined by a lingering suspicion in the minds of developing nations that the negotiations would mainly benefit rich nations in the West. **Reuters**

Japan output recovery shudders to a halt

TOKYO—A recovery in production by Japan's factories shuddered to a halt in the dying months of 2002 as puny domestic demand dragged output to its lowest annual level in 15 years, raising the risk of a return to recession this year.

A 0.1 percent month-on-month fall in industrial production announced by the government on Wednesday means that output fell 0.9 percent in the three months to end-December, marking the end of three quarters of solid rises driven by buoyant exports.

The December result, following a 1.6 percent fall in November, was a bit worse than expectations of flat growth in a Reuters poll and

underscored fears that the benefits of strong exports are being canceled out by a weak economy at home.

In addition to three years of deflation that have crippled consumer confidence, a government crackdown on banks' huge bad loans and a looming conflict in Iraq are threatening to become major brakes on economic growth, economists said.

"The production cycle has turned down pretty clearly," said Tomoko Fujii, an economist at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney.

"Domestically, we don't see stimulus ... and global demand is slowing, so the economy is likely to stagnate in coming months." **Reuters**

Singapore tech firms improve, outlook dim

SINGAPORE/NEW YORK—Three of Singapore's biggest high-tech companies reported better-than-expected December-quarter results on Wednesday but forecast challenging conditions ahead.

State-controlled contract chip maker Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd and semiconductor testing and packaging company ST Assembly Test Services Ltd both narrowed fourth-quarter losses.

The results, capping two years of trauma in the global computer chip market, came a day after the

world's top contract maker of electronic chips, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, posted a 43 percent slide in fourth-quarter net profit.

"The market environment for our industry continued to be very challenging during 2002," Chartered Chief Executive Chia Song Hwee said in a statement announcing the results.

The results were better than financial market forecasts, triggering an initial rise in the stock of all three companies. **Reuters**



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Aries Espinosa, Editor

The Weekend Market at Market! Market!

THE PUBLIC now have the chance to sample fresh farm-produce at The Weekend Market at Market! Market! Located at the grounds of the soon to open Market! Market! across International School in Bonifacio Global City, customers will be able to find a wide array of high-quality fruit, flowers, vegetables, ornamental plants and fresh seafood at very reasonable prices every Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parking is not a problem and customers can conveniently shop in a very clean and spacious environment.

This market showcases fresh produce direct from farms across the Philippines. Some of the bestsellers are: live crabs, prawns, assorted fish, cutflowers like mums, stargazer, orchids, and different varieties of palm trees. Food items like barbeque, Aklan lechon,

laing, Bicol express, mini bibingka and puto bumbong are also favorites.

The Weekend Market serves to give the public a taste of what Market! Market! will offer when it opens its doors by late 2003. A project of Liberty Real Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of Ayala Land Inc. Market! Market! is primarily envisioned to be a regional retail hub that brings together a unique mix of retail, dining and entertainment choices for the value-conscious Filipino shopper. Being built on a 9.7 hectare property along C-5 Road in Bonifacio Global City, this five-level, 150,000 square meter shopping mall, will offer the best value in shopping, dining and entertainment with all the comfort, convenience and security that the Ayala Malls are known for.

For inquiries call 752-7986 or 752-8009.



'Ang tunay na lutong Macau' emerges

AFTER testing the waters in the local food business, for the past year Macau Restaurant will embark on a new strategy aimed to create a niche for the discriminating Filipino food habitué.

To start the ball rolling, the George Pua-owned dining has hired Michael Lu and Arthur Tangco as operations managers, two young but tested restaurateurs to make Macau a byword in the local restaurant business. With the infusion of young blood in the team, Macau Restaurant clients whether local or foreign will have a total dining experience. "Our entry to the Macau management team signifies new management style, new and improved cuisine," said Lu, who heads the front house operations of Macau Restaurant.

"We will standardize our service and cuisine, and also continuously be searching for the best local and foreign dishes to enhance our standing in the restaurant with the approval and guidance of its master franchise in Macau, China," said Tangco, head operations of the kitchen section.

Although the name Macau Restaurant is associated with Cantonese and Portuguese cuisine, Tangco points out that they will not limit themselves in serving Macanese cuisine. Living in an environment where globalization is the main trend, Tangco said it's necessary for the Macau Restaurant to adopt a global out-

look to be able to serve a larger base of clientele, and at the same time remain competitive in the restaurant business.

Lu said Filipinos should not be surprised Macau is adopting a global



outlook in its business strategy. He said Macau Restaurant is inspired by the history and culture of the Chinese province of Macau, a former colony of Portugal. "With the island of Macau as our chief source of inspiration, we are going to cater not only to Chinese but also to Western cuisine," he said.

Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts — 'Lets Make a Better World'

AMSPEC is the manufacturer of Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts products, Mongol pencils, Crayola crayons and other leading brands of school and office supplies. AMSpec has several schools and kiddy programs and 'Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts Recycling Festival' is one of them.

Our world is fast deteriorating because of relentless garbage disposals. We would like our children to be more aware and involved by way of recycling. Recycling challenges the creativity in each child. Recycling is a child's contribution in making our world a better place to live in.

The contest, aptly entitled 'Let's Make a Better World' - aims to gather the support of schools to train and send one representative to the Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts Nationwide Recycling Festival. The

contest is a nationwide search for an outstanding, original, creative and functional craftwork especially made by kids.

Students could win as much as P172,000.00 for them, their art teachers and schools.

The preliminary round will be held in 6 key cities. Venue for NCR: Don Bosco Technical Institute, Makati City; Dagupan: City Museum, Dagupan City; Cebu: Subangdaku Elementary School, Mandaue City; Iloilo: University of San Agustin, General Luna St., Iloilo City; Cagayan de Oro: Xavier University, Corales Ave., Cagayan de Oro City; and for Davao: The Little Lamb School House, JP Laurel Avenue, Davao City.

The contest is open to all students of public and private

elementary schools nationwide, from 8 to 13 years old. Application forms are available in National Bookstore, SM Department Stores, Goodwill, Expressions, and World of Fun branches. The project is in cooperation with the Department of Education, Catholic Educational Association of the Phils., Philippine Elementary Schools Principals Association, and Philippine Art Educators Association. All entry forms should be submitted on or before 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Interested students and school art coordinators can also call up the AMSPEC Marketing Department at (02) 842-1515, (02) 568-5868 locals 119, 115, 123, email club@lilhands.com or fax (02) 842-1518. See posters and print ads for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1723 Series of 2002.

'So Real, So Sony' showcases superior technology

SONY Philippines invites everyone to experience Sony's superior audio technology at the "So Real, So Sony" audio exhibit to be held from Jan. 25 to 30 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Eunice Gan, Sony Philippines marketing supervisor for audio products, said that as the country's market leader in consumer electronics, Sony boasts unsurpassed audio technology that will satisfy audio enthusiasts who want only the clearest, sharpest and most defined sound quality. Therefore, she said, the exhibit provides opportunities for consumers to see and hear for themselves what Sony offers by way of audio products.

Showcasing the latest Sony technologies and trends in the audio equipment, the "So Real, So Sony" audio exhibit will include an acoustically designed home theater

room, where up to 10 selected visitors at a time can get the chance to watch DVD movies for free.

Also available at the exhibit will be a listening and downloading facility for music lovers, featuring a variety of selections from different musical genres. Daily games will be held during the event.

The formal launch of the "So Real, So Sony" audio exhibit was held on Jan. 26 with celebrities Claudine Trillo and Marc Nelson hosting the program, and Gerard Salonga, Angel Aquino and Lucky Manzano entertaining the visitors. The exhibit will also highlight the participation of Sony Music, Sony Life, Sony Ericsson, Columbia Pictures and Magnavision, demonstrating Sony's leadership as a total entertainment and communication company.

Writing a book seminar

THE ATV Speakers Network is holding a special program on how to write and publish your book on Sunday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Splendid Garden Apartelle at 99 Urban Avenue, Makati City. Topics include Getting Started, Why Write a Book, Writing vs. Publishing, Choosing the Topic, Determining Readership, Writing Clearly, Parts of the Book, Copyright, ISBN, and CIP registrations, Financing the Project, Marketing the Book and Advice from Other Writers. Call Judith or Josie at 896-8790 or 899-8441 for further details.



Eastwood Night Market reopens

THE SEASON of celebration may have ended in a lot of places, but at Eastwood City, the festivities are far from over. This new year, the highly successful Eastwood Night Market reopens and allows the public to experience the joys of bargain-hunting once again. Ongoing until Jan. 30, the Night Market holds its Health and Wealth After Xmas Sale. More than 100 booths feature remarkable deals on ladies and men's apparel, children's toys and clothes, scented candles and oils, perfume and cologne, leather goods, novelties, accessories and home décor. The Eastwood Night Market is open from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Festive Ang Pow at the Designer Depot

DESIGNER Depot, the pioneer factory outlet concept in the Philippines, will hold its 3-Day Special Sale on Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Quirino branch, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Shaw Boulevard branch. On Feb. 1, its two branches will be having its first Midnight Madness Sale for 2003. On Feb. 2, the Quirino branch will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., while the Shaw branch will be from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy big new year treats with up to 80 percent off on top of already discounted prices. For inquiries, call 564-1329 for Quirino and 535-5297 at Shaw.

Sale at SM Supermalls ends today

THE WOW Philippines Grand Fiesta Sale at SM Supermalls ends today with a skyrocketing big bang. SM Supermalls customers are enjoined to hurry and take advantage of terrific savings of up to 50 percent on a wide range of merchandise, including groceries, apparel, toys, home furnishings and more. The SM Supermalls Fiesta Sale is held under the auspices of the Department of Tourism.

La Salle hosts golf tourney

THE LA Salle Greenhills Alumni Association (LSGHAA) presents the 11th Drive For a Cause Golf tournament on Jan. 31, Friday, at the Legends Course of the Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Proceeds of the tourney will go to the Adult Night High School of the La Salle Brothers. Tournament fee is P1,900 inclusive of the green fee, tournament fee, food chit and raffle prizes. Tee-off time is 6:30 to 9 a.m. The tournament will be hosted by LSGH High School class 1978, silver jubilarians for this year's homecoming. "Show Me You're Verde" is the title of this year's homecoming to be held on Feb. 1 at the La Salle Greenhills Campus, Ortigas Avenue. The show will be hosted by Ralph Eigenmann, Charlie Ysmal and Maui Taylor. For more information, call the alumni office at 721-2729, 726-6339, and look for Percy or Ludy.

HDMF, HGC, work with Creba

HDMF and HGC are two government institutions committed to contribute to the housing targets of the national government. Both are tasked to promote homebuilding and land ownership, giving primary reference to the homeless and underprivileged sectors of the society. With Creba, these organizations are eager to negotiate towards the development/repackaging of HDMF's and HGC's unawarded and unoccupied assets. They also intend to intensively market their acquired assets. Thus, the following objectives in the MOA are considered: to foster a professional and consultative environment by which HDMF, HGC and Creba may come together to formally discuss cooperative efforts in utilizing the assets of the HDMF and HGC in order to complement the housing programs of the national government.



AD CONGRESS EXECOM OFF TO GREAT START

The executive committee of the upcoming 18th Philippine Advertising Congress chaired by ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez (seated, sixth from left) got off to an auspicious start with a team-building activity held as early as October last year in Baguio City. Joining the chairmen of the various committees were their sub-chairmen as they gamely participated in activities aimed at fostering camaraderie and dynamic professional cooperation among members of the team tasked to ensure the success of the Advertising Congress slated in November 2003. In photo are (seated, from left): Carlo Liava, Fourth Dimension; Malol Espinosa-Manalastas, ABS-CBN; Linda Gamboa, Ad Foundation; Milen de Quiros, Full Circle

Communications; Lizelle Maralag, StarComm Phils.; Eugenio Lopez III, ABS-CBN; Patricia Arches, McCann-Erickson; Pacencia Pineda, Manila Bulletin; Glig Rodriguez, Citibank; Menlou Bibonia, San Miguel Corp.; Jose Sy, Film Ads & Videofilm; and Frank Abueva, Advertising Associates; with (back row, from left): Jun Nidao, Manila Broadcasting Co.; David Guerrero, BBDO; Miguel Belmonte, Philippine Star; Glenn Glinoga, San Miguel Corp.; Allen Velez, formerly of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi; Dodie Lucas, Road Runner; Alvin Manassa, Arm Casting Int'l; freelance director Macoy Villaroman; Mon Reyes, La Tondeña; Andre Kahn, J. Romero; Trilix Lopez, ABS-CBN; and Mark Nepomuceno, ABS-CBN.



MASTERCARD SUPPORTS HSBC PROMO

MasterCard International showed full support to the HSBC Red MasterCard shoe-shopping spree promotion during the awarding of the winning cardholders in front of the CMG boutique in Glorietta. Five HSBC Red MasterCard cardholders were awarded with P100,000 each to buy shoes at participating stores in Glorietta and Rockwell in Makati. Photo shows (from left) Poch Villa-Real, vice president and country manager of MasterCard International Philippines; Claire Ann

Yap, SVP for card operations; Peter Yeates, HSBC senior vice president; Clarence Kho Yao, advertising and promotion officer of CMG; Christina Co, CMG branch operations manager; Judith Dayrit, director for marketing and member relations of MasterCard International Philippines; James Benoit, HSBC senior vice president; Rick Revere, vice president of global account development in Asia/Pacific; and Chan Kok Bin, president of HSBC.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 04
SERIES 2003

SUBJECT: 2003 Rules on Exemption of Lands from CARP Coverage under Section 3 (c) of Republic Act No. 6657 and Department of Justice (DOJ) Opinion No. 44, Series of 1990.

I. PREFATORY STATEMENT

Republic Act (RA) 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), Section 3, Paragraph (c) defines "agricultural land" as referring to "land devoted to agricultural activity as defined in this Act and not classified as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land."

Department of Justice Opinion No. 44, Series of 1990, (or "DOJ Opinion 44-1990" for brevity) and the case of *Natalia Realty versus Department of Agrarian Reform* (12 August 1993, 225 SCRA 278) opines that with respect to the conversion of agricultural land covered by RA 6657 to non-agricultural uses, the authority of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to approve such conversion may be exercised from the date of its effectivity, on 15 June 1988. Thus, all lands that are already classified as commercial, industrial or residential before 15 June 1988 no longer need any conversion clearance.

However, the reclassification of lands to non-agricultural uses shall not operate to divest tenant-farmers of their rights over lands covered by Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27, which have been vested prior to 15 June 1988.

In order to implement the intent and purpose of the provisions of the aforecited laws, these guidelines are hereby issued.

II. REQUIREMENTS

The applicant shall submit in quadruplicate the following documents in four (4) separate bound folders (one [1] original set and three [3] photocopy sets) with table of contents and page numbers of all documents, sequentially numbered, except for maps which the applicant shall likewise submit in quadruplicate but in four separate envelopes with proper label of the contents of each envelope. The arrangement thereof shall follow the sequence of the enumeration below, with the requirement referred to in Section 2.1 hereof being the first document after the table of contents. All references in the masculine form (he/him/his) shall interchangeably mean the feminine form (she/her/hers) or group form (it/its/their).

- 2.1 Official receipt showing proof of payment of filing and inspection fees.
- 2.2 Sworn Application for CARP Exemption or Exclusion, duly accomplished, and subscribed and sworn to before a notary public or any person authorized to administer oaths.
 - 2.2.1. Special Power of Attorney (SPA) if the applicant is not the registered owner nor one of the co-owners of the property;
 - 2.2.2. Notarized secretary's certificate of a corporate or cooperative board resolution authorizing the applicant's representative to file the Sworn Application for CARP Exemption if the applicant is a corporation or cooperative or some other juridical entity. The applicant shall also submit its latest notarized General Information Sheet (GIS) which must comply with the pertinent requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

- 2.3. True copy of the Original Certificate of Title (OCT) or Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) of the subject land, certified by the Register of Deeds not earlier than thirty (30) days prior to application filing date.

In case of untitled land, the following shall be required in lieu of a title:

- 2.3.1. Certification from the DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) that the landholding has been classified as alienable and disposable; and
- 2.3.2. Certification from the DENR CENRO (for administrative confirmation of imperfect title) or the Clerk of Court (for judicial confirmation of imperfect title) that the titling process/proceeding has commenced and there are no adverse claimants;
- 2.4. Land classification certification:
 - 2.4.1. Certification from the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) Regional Office on the actual zoning or classification of the subject land in the approved comprehensive land use plan, citing the municipal or city zoning ordinance number, resolution number, and date of its approval by the HLURB or its corresponding board resolution number.
 - 2.4.2. For lands classified as mineral: certification issued by the DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau or the proper DENR office attesting that the subject land is classified as mineral and covered by a mining permit issued by said Bureau or the proper Local Government Unit (LGU) in case of small scale mines.
 - 2.4.3. For lands classified as forest: certification issued by the DENR Forestry Sector or the proper DENR office attesting that the subject land is classified as within the forest zone.
- 2.5. Certification of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) that the area is not irrigated nor scheduled for irrigation rehabilitation nor irrigable with firm funding commitment.
- 2.6. Certification of the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) attesting compliance with the public notice requirement in Part III hereof and its corresponding report in 7.6 hereof.
- 2.7. Photographs, size 5R (five [5] inches by seven [7] inches), using color film, and taken on the subject land under sunlight. The applicant shall attach the pictures to a paper background, and the photographer who took said pictures shall sign on said paper background to certify the authenticity of the pictures. On each background paper shall be written a short description of each picture. The pictures shall consist of:
 - 2.7.1. At least four (4) photographs taken from the center of the landholding: one (1) facing north, one (1) facing east, one (1) facing south, and one (1) facing west;
 - 2.7.2. At least one (1) photograph per corner, taken from each corner of the landholding's borders;
 - 2.7.3. At least two (2) photographs each for all distinct man-made structures existing on the land, taken from opposite angles;
 - 2.7.4. At least two (2) photographs each of the front view of the billboard(s) required in Part III hereof. The applicant shall set aside the second copy of said billboard photographs for submission to the MARO; and
 - 2.7.5. Sufficient number of photographs of the most conspicuous landmarks in the ingress and egress routes leading to and from the subject landholding, for the purpose of assisting the ocular inspection team in locating the site.
- 2.8. Proof of receipt of payment of disturbance compensation or a valid agreement to pay or waive payment of disturbance compensation.
- 2.9. Affidavit/Undertaking in a single document of the applicant stating:
 - 2.9.1. The number and names of the farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farmworkers, actual tillers, and/or occupants in the landholding; if there are no such persons, a statement attesting to such fact;
 - 2.9.2. That the applicant has erected the billboard(s) required in Part III hereof; and undertake not to remove, deface or destroy the same; and that he shall repair or replace the same when damaged, until after the approving authority disposes of the application with finality;
 - 2.9.3. That he has not committed any act of forum shopping as defined in the rules governing Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI) cases; and
 - 2.9.4. That when there is a dispute on the fixing of disturbance compensation pending before the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (PARAD) or Regional Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (RARAD) or DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB), the applicant shall abide with the decision of the Adjudicating Authority on the fixing of disturbance compensation.
- 2.10. Lot plan prepared by a duly-licensed geodetic engineer indicating the lots being applied for and their technical descriptions.
- 2.11. Vicinity or directional map to assist the ocular inspection team in locating the subject land. The directional map need not be drawn to scale but must show the orientation of the subject land in relation to adjoining lands; existing infrastructures and improvements thereon including any house or tillage by an occupant therein; owners of adjacent properties; the nearest barangay, municipal, city and/or provincial feeder road; and other popular landmarks within a one (1) kilometer radius.

III. PUBLIC NOTICE

The applicant shall post in a conspicuous place within the subject property a public notice contained in a billboard made of strong materials such as weather resistant plywood, galvanized iron, tin, panaflex, or other similar durable material, measuring 1.22 meters by 2.44 meters (4 feet by 8 feet). There shall be installed at least one (1) billboard for every twenty (20) hectares. The billboard shall be written in the local dialect and shall display the following information:

- 3.1. Announcement that the applicant is applying for exemption;
- 3.2. Complete name(s) of the landowner(s) and applicant(s);
- 3.3. Total area and exact location of the exemption proposal;
- 3.4. Date of filing of the application for exemption;
- 3.5. Date of posting of billboard;
- 3.6. Deadline for filing protest;

- 3.7. Addresses of DAR offices where resident oppositors may conveniently file their protests;
- 3.8. Address of the approving authority;
- 3.9. Date of ocular inspection, which shall be left blank, and which the applicant shall fill up after the MARO determines its exact date, but not later than seven (7) days before ocular inspection day; and
- 3.10. Date of approval or denial of the application, which shall be left blank, and which the MARO or applicant or any party-in-interest shall fill up after approval or denial of the application.

IV. DISTURBANCE COMPENSATION

- 4.1. The applicant shall pay disturbance compensation, in cash or kind or combination of cash and kind, to the farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farmworkers, and actual tillers (as defined and following the order of priority in Section 22 of RA 6657) found in the subject landholding, in such amount and under such terms which the parties may mutually agree upon among themselves.
- 4.2. The amount of disturbance compensation shall not be less than five (5) times the average of gross harvests on the subject landholding during the last five (5) preceding calendar years, pursuant to Section 35 of RA 3844, as amended by Section 7 of RA 6389.
- 4.3. Compensation in kind may consist of some or all or mixture of housing, homelets, employment, and/or other benefits. The DAR shall approve the terms of any agreement for the payment of disturbance compensation and monitor compliance therewith.
- 4.4. Whenever there is a dispute on the fixing of disturbance compensation or entitlement to disturbance compensation, the Regional Director shall refer the matter to the Adjudicator who shall be bound to take cognizance of and resolve the case despite the non-finality of the issue on whether or not the subject land is exempt from CARP.
- 4.5. The approving Authority may grant a conditional exemption order, despite non-payment of disturbance compensation or while awaiting determination of entitlement thereto, subject however to the condition that the applicant and/or landowner shall post a bond in an amount to be determined by the Adjudicator. Notwithstanding the posting of such bond, the property applied for exemption shall not be developed for non-agricultural purposes and the farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farmworkers, and actual tillers thereof cannot be ejected therefrom until the finality of the exemption order.

V. APPROVING AUTHORITIES

- 5.1. For properties with an area less than or equal to five (5) hectares, the approving authority shall be the Regional Director, acting upon the recommendation of the Regional Center for Land Use Policy Planning and Implementation (RCLUPPI).
- 5.2. For properties with an area larger than five (5) hectares, the approving authority shall be the Secretary, acting upon the recommendation of the Center for Land Use Policy Planning and Implementation - 2 (CLUPPI-2).
- 5.3. When the applicant owns (or represents the owner of) two (2) or more parcels of land within the same barangay or within two (2) or more barangays that are adjacent to each other, and the sum of the areas of said parcels of land exceeds five (5) hectares, the approving authority for an application involving any of said parcels of land shall be the Secretary, acting upon the recommendation of the CLUPPI-2.
- 5.4. When the applicant or any oppositor challenges the jurisdiction of the approving authority on the ground of error in computation of jurisdictional area, and a higher authority takes cognizance of the dispute, the Approving Authority herein shall hold in abeyance the processing of the present application until said higher authority determines with finality the correct jurisdictional area.

VI. INSPECTION COST

- 6.1. For applications involving lands with an area less than or equal to five (5) hectares:
 - 6.1.1. Ten Thousand (10,000) pesos if the subject landholding is within the same island as that of the Office of the Regional Director; or
 - 6.1.2. Fifteen thousand (15,000) pesos if the subject landholding is not within the same island as that of the Office of the Regional Director.
- 6.2. For applications involving lands with an area larger than five (5) hectares:
 - 6.2.1. Ten thousand (10,000) pesos if the subject landholding is within the main island of Luzon (except Bicol peninsula);
 - 6.2.2. Fifteen thousand (15,000) pesos if the subject landholding is within Regions I to IV but is not located within the main island of Luzon;
 - 6.2.3. Fifteen thousand (15,000) pesos if the subject landholding is in Bicol Peninsula or Visayas group of islands; or
 - 6.2.4. Twenty thousand (20,000) pesos if the subject landholding is in the Mindanao group of islands.

VII. PROCEDURE

- 7.1. The applicant shall first secure an Application Form from the RCLUPPI or CLUPPI-2.
- 7.2. The applicant shall:
 - 7.2.1. Fill-up the application form with all the necessary data;
 - 7.2.2. Indicate whether or not the application is for a housing project under Executive Order (EO) No. 45, Series of 2001 (EO-45-2001);
 - 7.2.3. Acknowledge the accomplished application form before a notary public;
 - 7.2.4. Attach the Title(s) required under either 2.3 or 2.4 hereof;
 - 7.2.5. Attach the vicinity or directional map required under 2.11 hereof;
 - 7.2.6. Reproduce the above documents into four (4) sets (one [1] original set and three [3] photocopy sets). At least one (1) photocopy set shall be forwarded to the MARO.
- 7.3. Following the instructions that accompany the Application Form, the applicant shall install the public notice billboard(s) required under Part III hereof.
- 7.4. Immediately thereafter, the applicant shall reproduce the application form into at least six (6) clear photocopy sets and place them in six (6) separate folders (plus a seventh folder for the original set), the distribution of which shall be as follows:
 - 7.4.1. The original copy for the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2;
 - 7.4.2. Three (3) photocopies for the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2; and
 - 7.4.3. Two (2) photocopies which the applicant shall furnish to the MARO as advance copies.
- 7.5. Within five (5) days from receipt of the folders containing the documents in Section 7.4 hereof, the MARO shall keep one folder for himself and transmit the other folder to the PARO.
- 7.6. *MARO certification*-Within ten (10) days from receipt of the above folder, the MARO shall: check the status of CARP coverage on the subject land; inspect the billboard; check presence of farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farm workers, actual tillers, or occupants; post notices of the application in a conspicuous place in the municipality and a conspicuous place in the barangay/s covering the subject land (or in the barangay where a larger portion of the subject land is situated when said land overlaps into another barangay); prepare a single-document MARO certification reporting the result of all the foregoing tasks; and make available to the applicant the original copy of said MARO certification.
- 7.7. *MARO inaction*-If the MARO fails to act upon the request for said certification within ten (10) days from receipt of the request, the applicant shall notify the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 of such failure by personally filing an affidavit reporting such inaction. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall investigate the reason for the non-issuance and take the steps necessary for the judicious resolution of the pending application for exemption. Simultaneously, the disciplinary authority of the DAR shall, after proper investigation, impose upon the erring MARO the proper administrative sanction(s).
- 7.8. At this juncture, the applicant has four (4) folders left after furnishing two (2) advance copies for the MARO and PARO. The applicant shall place in said four (4) folders all the applicable documentary requirements set forth in Part II hereof, all the originals being in one (1) folder, and the photocopies thereof being in the three (3) other folders. These four (4) folders shall be the initiatory pleading of the application for exemption.
- 7.9. *Filing Date*-The applicant shall submit to the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 the four (4) folders containing all the applicable requirements set forth in Part II hereof. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall then review the completeness of the application. If found complete, the applicant shall pay the inspection cost in accordance with Part VI hereof, after which the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 may accept the application. Acceptance date of the folders shall be the "Filing Date" of the application.
- 7.10. The distribution of the four (4) folders shall be as follows: The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall keep a folder containing the originals and a folder containing the photocopies. At the same time, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 Secretariat shall transmit the remaining two (2) folders to the PARO and MARO respectively. Immediate transmittal of said folders is important because the PARO shall utilize the information therein when acting upon any protest against the application, or when issuing any comment that he may wish to submit to the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 in connection with the application.
- 7.11. Within five (5) days from Filing Date, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall issue to the applicant a Notice of Conduct of Ocular Inspection, indicating the date thereof. The ocular inspection shall be held not earlier than ten (10) days, nor later than fifteen (15) days from issuance date of the Notice of Conduct of Ocular Inspection. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall inform the MARO of the date of ocular inspection through the speediest means of communication with instructions to ensure dissemination of the Notice to all farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farmworkers, actual tillers, or occupants in the subject landholding.

- 7.12. The applicant shall transmit said Notice to the MARO and indicate the ocular inspection date on the billboard(s) at least five (5) days before conduct of ocular inspection. On or before ocular inspection date, the applicant shall submit to the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 a proof that the MARO received a copy of said Notice.

- 7.13. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall then conduct ocular inspection, and if possible, hold a dialogue with the farmers, agricultural lessees, share tenants, farmworkers, actual tillers, and/or occupants found in the subject landholding. Notwithstanding the finding of the NIA on the irrigation status of the subject land, the ocular inspection team shall make its own determination on the irrigation status. Where irrigation is absent in the subject land but present in adjoining or neighboring lands, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall determine whether or not the subject land is a servient estate of an easement of irrigation waterway such that irrigation water crosses thru a portion of the subject land en route to or from the adjoining or neighboring lands. If in the affirmative, any grant of exemption herein shall in no way give the applicant (or any of his successor-in-interest) any right to block or otherwise impede the free flow of water thru said easement.

- 7.14. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 ocular inspection team shall, within five (5) days from conduct of ocular inspection, accomplish an Investigation Report which shall include the result of its dialogue.

- 7.15. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall deliberate on the merits of the application and may call the applicant and/or oppositor(s), if any, for clarificatory questioning to judiciously resolve any dispute arising from the application. The RCLUPPI shall invite the PARO to participate in the deliberations. Upon his discretion, the PARO may submit a written comment to the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2.

- 7.16. *RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 recommendation*-Within thirty (30) days from issuance of the MARO certification or filing of affidavit of MARO inaction, but not later than forty (40) days from Filing Date, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall forward its recommendation, together with the records, to the approving authority.

- 7.17. The filing of any protest shall interrupt the running period for processing applications for exemption and shall lift the deadline for approving or disapproving the application. Upon receipt of a protest, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall order the filing of a comment, reply, rejoinder, and such other pleadings that may aid in a judicious resolution of the protest issues; and thereafter, schedule hearings where the parties may present their respective evidence. After conclusion of the hearings, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall submit its recommendation to the approving authority which shall resolve the protest simultaneously with the application.

- 7.18. Protests against applications involving housing projects shall likewise interrupt the running period and lift the deadline for approving or disapproving the application. In line with Section 4 (c) of EO-45-2001, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall make a preliminary determination on whether or not the protest stands on valid grounds. When the protest is prima facie meritorious, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall order the filing of a comment, reply, rejoinder, and such other pleadings that may aid in a judicious resolution of the protest issues, and thereafter, schedule hearings where the parties may present their respective evidence. After conclusion of the hearings, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall submit its recommendation to the approving authority which shall resolve the protest simultaneously with the application.

VIII. EFFECT ON PRE-EXISTING CARP COVERAGE

When the filing of an application for exemption clearance is in response to a notice of CARP coverage, the DAR shall deny due course to the application if it was filed after sixty (60) days from the date the landowner received a notice of CARP coverage.

IX. PROTESTS

- 9.1. Who may file-Any person may file a written protest against the application within thirty (30) days from posting of the requisite billboard(s), or within fifteen (15) days from conduct of ocular inspection, whichever is later.

- 9.2. Where to file- Protests against applications for exemption may be filed in the office of the PARO or RCLUPPI having jurisdiction over the applied property, or at the CLUPPI-2.

- 9.3. Grounds:

- 9.3.1. The subject landholding is classified as within the agricultural zone based on the Zoning Ordinance or Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the LGU approved by the HLURB prior to 15 June 1988. A protest based on this ground shall not be given due course unless the oppositor invoking said ground submits the necessary certification from the HLURB Regional Office or the proper government agency.

- 9.3.2. The subject property has been covered by Operation Land Transfer (OLT) under PD 27.

- 9.4. The RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall make a preliminary determination on whether or not the protest stands on valid grounds. When the protest is prima facie meritorious, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall order the filing of a comment, reply, rejoinder, and such other pleadings that may aid in a judicious resolution of the protest issues, and thereafter schedule hearings where the parties may present their respective evidence. After conclusion of the hearings, the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 shall submit its recommendation to the approving authority which shall resolve the protest simultaneously with the application.

- 9.5. An oppositor who files a protest before the PARO shall do so by personal service, not by mail. Upon receipt of a protest by personal service, the PARO shall, before the end of the next working day, communicate with the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 by telephone or text message, to inform the members thereof of such protest, and send a corresponding telegram and/or radiogram which shall serve as written proof of compliance with the protest notification requirement herein. Within five (5) working days from receipt of the protest, the PARO shall submit, by courier or speed delivery, to the RCLUPPI/CLUPPI-2 the original copy of the protest itself, and keep a photocopy thereof in his custody. Failure of the PARO to comply with the directive under this Section shall subject him to the appropriate disciplinary action.

X. PROVISIONAL REMEDIES

In cases where grave and irreparable damage will result to the parties or where the doing and continuance of certain acts will render the case moot and academic, or where there is a need to maintain peace and order and prevent loss to life or property, the Secretary or Regional Director may, *motu proprio* or at the instance of any party, issue a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) pending the resolution of the case. In this regard, the issuing authority may request the assistance of law enforcement agencies to implement the CDO.

XI. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION AND APPEAL

This Order shall adopt the provisions of the ALI rules on motion for reconsideration and appeal.

XII. FINALITY OF THE ORDER

The Exemption Clearance or its denial shall become final and executory after all parties receive a copy of the Order, and after the lapse of fifteen (15) calendar days from date of receipt date by the last recipient of an official copy of the Order, and no motion for reconsideration or appeal therefrom has been filed. The Head of the Legal Division of the Regional Office or the BALA Director shall issue the appropriate Certificate of Finality.

XIII. REVOCATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF EXEMPTION CLEARANCES

Any person may file a petition to revoke, or the landowner may file a petition to withdraw, the Exemption Clearance, when there is a serious violation of agrarian laws or DAR rules, or on any other substantial ground which the Secretary may deem proper, within ninety (90) days from discovery of the fact(s) constituting the ground(s) for cancellation or withdrawal, but not more than one (1) year from issuance of the Exemption Clearance.

XIV. SANCTIONS

The DAR may impose against its own officials or employees the following sanctions, in accordance with RA 5713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and the Uniform Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service (effective 26 September 1998), specifically Rule IV, Section 52. Sub-section "C", numbers "13" to "15" thereof, to wit:

- "13. Failure to act promptly on letters and request within fifteen (15) days from receipt except as otherwise provided in the rules implementing the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees."

- "14. Failure to process documents and complete action on documents and papers within a reasonable time from preparation thereof, except as otherwise provided in the rules implementing the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees."

- "15. Failure to attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of the office, or act promptly and expeditiously on public transactions."

"1st Offense Reprimand"

"2nd Offense Suspension 1-30 days"

"3rd Offense Dismissal"

XVI. TRANSITORY PROVISION

The rules and procedures herein shall apply to cases pertaining to the *Lungsod Silangan Townsite*, provided that the requirements in Memorandum Circular No. 25, Series of 1997, as amended, shall continue to govern.

XVII. REPEALING CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVITY

This Order amends or repeals all issuances inconsistent herewith and shall take effect ten (10) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, in line with Section 49 of RA 6657.

Diliman, Quezon City, 16 January 2003.

HERNAN A. BRAGANZA
Secretary

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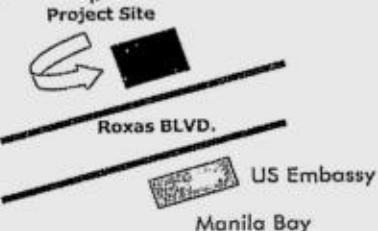
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 64.5 sqm with free 1 parking
 P4.3M 1BR 20%DP Ok 2 Move-In
 California Gardens Square
 2BR near Rustan Shangri-la
 Only P25,000 reservation
 No Down P2.1M P17K M/A
 8-903-903/ 0917-8-903-903

VARIED AREAS

Pasig Antipolo Tgty 724-4856

MEMORIAL LOT

Loyola or Holy Cross mem.
 lot T3755182(pn only) Stella

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

•ZAMBALES 17has 1600mango
 trees 26M DBO 0919-2221766

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Mktl Condo Sale/Rent Crown
 Tower de la Costa 2BR 2TB
 150sqm Md Rm TB 1 Pkg
 New 2TB Cabinets
 LEO 09175286515 RUSH

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW'96 320i 600T 1st own
 AT-Wel/Kept 8162568; 8161805

MITSUBISHI

82' BOX TYPE 55T 2727813

Rush '96LnerEL 170T 4762630

SPACEWAGON 95 50TKM RED
 FRON OWNER LEAVING P250T
 TEL(0917)4594979 MARISA

NISSAN

97 N.Safari DA 895 T-8980215

TOYOTA

•HIACE TOWNACE 926-7433

PDI - January 30, 2003

COMM/RESOL

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

RIZAL

RUSHIRUSHIMKT OFF. RES.
 •895-9336 • 728-5269 •

Bentley Park Subd LA108
 FA100 3br2tb • 09178174547

PASIG

Safe of Flood and Faultline
NR ORTIGAS EXT
 New French 1½Story w/View
 3BR&Maids 2c'port Balcony
 P3M Call 9488240/ 9339446

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. Incl
 College T-6414589,
 0 9 1 7 5 3 7 2 3 4 0

6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas
 T-6414589, 09175372340

QUEZON CITY

No DP 14900/mo 09195898014
 Only 15 min Fr AYALA ALABANG
 Another AYALA development

BULACAN

Rush Sale! House & Lot 158
 sqm, Bocaue, Bulacan Call
 Rauli 0917-4863994

HOUSE & LOT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

LAS PINAS

MAKATI

58 Sgm 2 Str 2Bdrm Vulte Thomas 1
 Mwalk LPinas 0919-6056880

CONDO UNITS 4 SALE!
 Near Makati CDB & D' Fort
 Around 15 mins Drive 4 only
 P26K/mo. RFO Call Ivy
 Cell No.# 0918-9304927

MANILA

Income Property Nr UST
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2br Crisanta Tower Near
 Verde CClub 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

2BR CONDO CUBAO 9120679

QUEZON CITY

3br 158m² St. Ignatius P4M
 Neg. Text 0917-4149898

ROSARIO

Rosale Eastwood City Studio
 1-3BR 0917-4149898

CAVITE

179m² PARKPLACE IMUS
 P2500/m² T5237683

P900/TRIP 7421457

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THURSDAY,
JANUARY 30, 2003

ANG BAGONG LAHI FILIPINO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Sec. Registration No. A200200833-2002
Non Governmental Organization

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS/DIRECTRES, PROVINCIAL
DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL, CITY, BARANGAY, ROVING
COORDINATORS AND MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce to all our Coordinators and Twenty Five (25) million members that
"ANG BAGONG LAHI FILIPINO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.," with SEC.
REGISTRATION NO. 200200833-2002, will start the implementation of the PABAHAY PROGRAM
in relation to the Supreme Court Ruling EN BANC DECISION dated DECEMBER 18, 1996 with
Government Report (GR) No. 103727 and Government Report (GR) No. 106496. Original Survey
Plan II-4509, conducted on March 23-27, September 8-1, April 9-12 and June 3-24, 1910. On October
23, 1911; Registered under Torrens System. Promulgated on December 18, 1996 and became
FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

We believed that our VISION of this foundation is for STRONG REPUBLIC, economic stability
and to unite the people at-large, henceforth, I am willing to share so as to fulfill the LAND FOR
LANDLESS, HOME FOR THE HOMELESS and FULL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM of this
foundation.

So that THIS NATION WILL SURELY BECOME GREAT ONCE MORE!!!

"PARA SA BAYAN"

VISIT OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE @
www.eastpacific.org

(Sgd.) ALMIRANTE G. BERSALES I
Chairman

(Sgd.) ENGR. CHARLIE O. CARABAÑA
Chief Project Officer

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



FRANCISCO M. BERNARDO III
(a.k.a. "Jay" Bernardo / "JAD" Bernardo)

A Warrant of Arrest has been issued against FRANCISCO M.
BERNARDO III, whose picture appears above, by Branch 21 of the
Regional Trial Court of Manila in Criminal Case 381227 - CR.

Any information leading to his immediate arrest may be reported at
telephone numbers 705-3177 to 78.

A considerable reward awaits any informant who could give reliable
information that would lead to the arrest of Mr. FRANCISCO M.
BERNARDO III.

(PDI-January 30, 2003)



2003 PMA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS. (Seated from left) Ma. Victoria Añonuevo,
immediate past president/international affairs; Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr., president; Ma.
Veronica Hizon, EVP/director-National Marketing Conference. (Standing, from left) Ma.
Elena Gunda, director-Community Affairs and Sports; Cergen Go, VP for Membership
and Fellowship; Dr. Felix Lao, Jr., VP for Chapters; Herminio Del Rosario, director-
Meetings and Attendance; Juanita Punsal, internal auditor/director-National Marketing
Month; Joselito Ortega, VP for youth and academe; Sonia de Guzman, treasurer/ways
and means; Elizabeth Flores, board secretary; Bienvenido Policarpio, government and
consumer affairs; Ma. Aileen Sazon, director-Agora Awards; Aniceto Fontanilla, VP for
education and research. (not in picture) Jose Maria Policarpio, director-PR and
corporate communications.

Joecon keynotes PMA induction rites

BUSINESSMAN and civic leader Jose
"Joecon" Concepcion was the keynote
speaker during the induction ceremonies of
the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA),
Jan. 29, at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel
Intercontinental Manila, Makati City.

Concepcion, the chair of RFM Foundation
and a respected business figure, spoke on "New
Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," the uni-
fying theme for all the undertakings of the PMA
for 2003 under its new president Dr. Leonardo
"Nards" Garcia, Jr. of De La Salle University.

According to key officers of the PMA, the
theme was borne out of the new markets,
trends, products, and services that have sur-
faced under the present climate of global
competition.

"Without a doubt, today's business envi-
ronment is very different and distinct com-
pared to a mere ten years ago. Before, the pre-
mium was in identifying and then projecting

into the future. However, with the rapid
change in our economy, businessmen have
learned to expect and accept erratic market
behavior," says Dr. Garcia.

"The dynamic changes in today's market
calls for a review of the existing marketing
paradigm. With this review we can hold fast
on the marketing convention that still apply
and develop new marketing tenets based on
current needs. We need to keep everything in
balance," he adds.

The PMA is a non-stock, non-profit orga-
nization committed to the task of nation build-
ing by being the foremost proponent of mar-
keting excellence. Starting out with only 15
members back in Jan. 27, 1954. Today, PMA
membership has ballooned to the hundreds
and is recognized as the primemover in Phil-
ippine marketing by the academe, business
community, government, as well as interna-
tional business organizations.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
5th JUDICIAL REGION
TANAUAN, LEYTE

Land Reg. Case No. 2002-04-03 LRA Record No. N-74472

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General,
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land
Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive
Director, Region VIII, DENR, Tacloban City; the Hon. Secretary,
Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port
Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform,
PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management
Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro
Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the
General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, Tacloban City; the
Public Works and Highways District Engineer DPWH, 1st Leyte
Engineering District, Pavia, Palo Leyte; the CENRO Officer,
CENRO, Land Management Sector, Tacloban City; the Municipal
Mayor, the Municipal Council, Tanauan, Leyte; Purisima S. Palacio
c/o Godofredo S. Palacio, Regineldo Sagundina Palacio, both at
Block 13 Lot 18, Sentena Village, Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City; Pinar
Perez vda. de Balegas, c/o Sps. William and Melissa Bertolas, 824
Real St., Tanauan, Leyte AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by
SPS. ERNESTO YUCAMCO and LIZA YUCAMCO, Brgy. 83-C
Tagukit, San Jose, Tacloban City, thru Atty. Sergio G. Sumayod,
Sumayod Delgado and Associates, R.T. Udon Bldg., 18 Real St.,
Tacloban City praying for the registration and confirmation of the title
to the following described land with improvements thereon:

A parcel of land designated as Lot 732-A of the subdivision plan,
Cad-08-006849-D, being a portion of Lot 732, Cad-505, Tanauan
Cadastral, situated in the Poblacion, Municipality of Tanauan,
Province of Leyte, Island of Leyte. Bounded on the NE, along line 1-
2 by Lot 1264, Cad-505; on the SE, along line 2-3 by Lot 734, Cad-
505; on the SW, along line 3-4 by Lot 732-B of this subdivision; and
on the NW, along line 4-1 by Don Guillermo Street. Beginning at a
point marked "1" on plan being S. 05 deg. 46' W., 198.52 m. from
BLM No. 1, Cad-505, Tanauan Cadastral.

thence S. 75 deg. 18' E., 21.79 m. to point 2;
thence S. 16 deg. 38' W., 11.49 m. to point 3;
thence N. 75 deg. 20' W., 21.36 m. to point 4;
thence N. 14 deg. 28' E., 11.51 m. to point of beginning

containing an area of TWO HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT (248)
SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on plan and
marked on the ground as follows: corners 3, 4 are P.S. cyl. conc.
mons. 15 x 40 cm. and the rest are Old points, bearings grid, date of
subdivision survey, June 5, 2000 by Geodetic Engineer Romulo C.
Hugo, approved by the Asst. Regional Executive Director for
Operations, DENR, Region VIII, Tacloban City on Sept. 20, 2000.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at
its session to be held at MTC, Tanauan, Leyte, Philippines, on the
5th day of February, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. then and there to present
such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and
to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear
at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be
recorded and the title to this land will be adjudicated and determined
in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and
thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application
(or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the Hon. SARAH LENTE-JAS-DAPULA, MTC Judge,
the 2nd day of September, 2002.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 5th day of November,
2002.

ATTEST:
BENEDICTO B. ULEP
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By: (Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy:
(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CARAGA
Chief, Publication of Notices Section
(PDI-Jan. 30, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines PROCUREMENT SERVICE INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility
and to bid for the SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PASSENGER ELEVATORS for the Bureau
of Internal Revenue.

The approved budget for this contract is P 10,879,230.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on
February 6, 2003, 9:30 a.m. at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex,
Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting January 23,
2003 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial
proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of
the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of
bids shall be on February 25, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos 563-94-02 or
563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements
and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare
a failure of bids, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract
shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI-Jan. 23 & 30, 2003)

IQMan team deploys first batch of sponsored nurses

A YEAR and a half ago, Interna-
tional Quality Manpower Services
Inc. (I.Q.MAN) revolutionized the
deployment of Filipino nurses to the
United States by pioneering the
"Full Sponsorship Program", open-
ing opportunities for nurses to im-
migrate in the United States and
work as professionals without ex-
pense on their part.

The start of the year marked an-
other milestone for I.Q.MAN and its
strategic US counterpart, Interna-
tional Quality Healthcare Profes-
sional Connection, LP (IQHPC),
when it deployed its first group of
sponsored nurses to one of its client
hospitals, the University of Wiscon-
sin Hospital and Clinics in Madison,
Wisconsin, in a record time of eight
months.

The deployment of nurses to the
United States under immigrant vi-
sas usually takes anywhere between
18 to 30 months, depending on the
completeness of requirements.
I.Q.MAN and IQHPC have devel-
oped an innovative and proprietary
process (business process patent
pending) wherein they are able to
significantly shorten the timeframe
by ensuring that all documentation
and application forms are properly
completed and submitted in the
proper manner. Additionally, by
providing their nurses with the
proper training and review courses
I.Q.MAN can greatly increase the
nurses' ability and proficiency in
successfully passing the CGFNS,
TOEFL/TWE/TSE, NCLEX exams
that are required to qualify for a US
Immigrant Visa.

"I never expected that eight
months after I was selected by UW
Hospital, I would be flying to the
United States with my family. I sa-
lute I.Q.MAN for the fast process-
ing of my papers. I.Q.MAN really is
the best," said Antonio Reyes, one
of the frontrunners before he left the
Philippines on Jan. 7. Reyes was
one of the 35 I.Q.MAN sponsored
nurses selected by UW Hospital last
year through videoconference in-
terviews. All 35 UW nurses will be
deployed before the middle of the
year.

Aside from UW Hospital, other
I.Q.MAN sponsored nurses will be
joining their hospital employers
throughout this year and early next
year: Roxborough Memorial Hos-
pital of Philadelphia; Sinai Hospital
of Baltimore, Maryland; University
Medical Center of Lubbock, Texas;
Thomson General Hospital of El
Paso, Texas; and Driscoll Child-
ren's Hospital of Corpus Christi,
Texas.

This impressive feat is made
possible by the combined efforts of
I.Q.MAN, IQHPC, and the Immi-
gration Law Firm of Elliot &
Mayock, LLP (E&M) of San Fran-
cisco and Washington, D.C.

I.Q.MAN is the land-based
counterpart of one of the largest
suppliers of Filipino Seafarers to
worldwide shipping fleets. It is a
joint venture of the C.F. Sharp
Group, whose Seafaring Division
deploys more than 12,000 seafarers
annually, and the LBC Group, the
largest courier company in the Phil-
ippines.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH CENTER

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

(1) **Medical Technologist I**
SG-11 (P10,535.00); RA1080;
Bachelor's degree in Medical
Technology or BS in Public Health;
training and experience not
required.

(1) **Clerk III**
SG-6 (P7,606.00); CS-Sub Prof.;
Completion of (2) yrs. studies in
college; training and experience
not required.

Note: Incomplete requirements will not be
processed

Requirements:

- Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
- CSC Eligibility / Board Rating
- Transcript of Records - (cert. true copy)
- Diploma - (cert. true copy)
- Certificate of Trainings Attended
- Certificate of Employment (if applicable)

Send Resumé to: The Office of the Executive
Director, Occupational Safety and Health
Center, North Ave. cor. Science Road, Diliman,
Quezon City or through e-mail:
oshcenter@oshc.dole.gov.ph. Deadline for
submission is on 6 February 2003.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING ARCHITECT

- Licensed Architect
- Minimum of three (3) years experience
- Male
- Must be efficient in BOQ & Proposal
preparation
- Highly motivated, dynamic, disciplined and
result-oriented

Pls. send your resumé, (2) 1x1 pictures, and NBI
clearance not later than February 05, 2003 to:

Nakamichi Philippines, Inc.

Unit 14-D Trafalgar Plaza, 105 HV Dela
Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

WANTED IN-HOUSE LAWYER

- Preferably could handle Civil Case
related to Corporate Practice
- Male/Female (30-35 Yrs. old)
- Strong personality

For further inquiry, call 733-8316 to 20

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Contact Tel. Nos. 687-2344, 687-5788

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
5th Judicial Region
Branch 34
Iriga City

IN THE MATTER OF THE DECLARATION
OF HEIRSHIP AND SETTLEMENT OF
THE INTESTATE ESTATE OF THE LATE
HERMOGENES RODRIGUEZ y REYES,
et al.

SPEC PROC NO. IR-1110

HENRY RODRIGUEZ, et al.,
Petitioner,

X-----X

ORDER

This resolves the motions of administrator's counsel,
praying for the inclusion in the list of inventory of properties of
the Estate of Hermogenes Rodriguez et al., which are herein
below described:

- A parcel of land located at Phase 8, North Fairview,
Quezon City, Metro Manila, more particularly described as
follows:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION		
1-2	S 50° 00' W	490.00 M.
2-3	N 42° 30' W	50.00 M.
3-4	N 88° 00' W	60.00 M.
4-5	S 50° 35' W	48.11 M.
5-6	S 76° 00' W	65.00 M.
6-7	N 42° 00' W	190.00 M.
7-8	N 73° 00' W	50.00 M.
8-9	N 04° 00' E	75.00 M.
9-10	N 37° 12' W	157.85 M.
10-11	S 05° 00' W	95.00 M.
11-12	N 44° 00' W	20.64 M.
12-13	N 08° 18' W	389.10 M.
13-14	N 53° 30' E	480.00 M.
14-1	S 40° 00' E	935.00 M.

Containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY
THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR
SQUARE METERS (580,744 sq.m.), more or less.

Republic of the Philippines
SUPREME COURT
Manila
FIRST DIVISION

CAROLA FAVILA-SANTOS,
Petitioner,
-versus-
HENRY F. RODRIGUEZ, ET AL.,
Respondents.

G.R. No. 140271

ENTRY OF JUDGMENT

This is to certify that on November 24, 1999 a resolution
rendered in the above-entitled case was filed in this Office, the
dispositive part of which reads as follows:

"G.R. No. 140271 (Carola Favila-Santos vs.
Henry F. Rodriguez, et al.).
On the basis thereof, the Court Resolves to DENY
the instant petition for review on certiorari of the
decision, amended decision and order of the
Regional Trial Court, Iriga City, Branch 34, dated
April 27, 1999, August 13, 1999 and October 1,
1999, respectively, for failure to attach the affidavit
of service of copy of the petition on the lower court
concerned and on the adverse parties pursuant to
Section 3 and 5, Rule 45, Sec. 5 (d), Rule 56 and
Sec. 13, Rule 13."

and that the same has, on February 22, 2000 become final and
executory and is hereby recorded in the Book of Entries of
Judgments

Manila, Philippines.

Clerk of Court
By:

(Sgd.) TERESITA G. DIMASIP
Deputy Clerk of Court
Chief
Judicial Records Office

(PDI-Jan. 30, 2003)

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Day before publication



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff

of

RED RIBBON BAKESHOP (GROUP OF COMPANIES)

condole with deepest sorrow the passing of our beloved

RENATO GUECO MERCADO, SR. "Tata Renat"

who peacefully joined his Creator on January 27, 2003.

Red Ribbon Group of Companies, on behalf of the bereaved Mercado family, joins all the loved ones and friends of Tata Renat in their offering of love and affection at the **La Salle Greenhills (LSGH) Chapel, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City** and for their pious prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Please omit flowers. Donations will be forwarded to the Renato G. Mercado, Sr. Foundation

The **Memorial Mass** will be held on **January 31, 2003 at 9:00 in the morning** at the **LSGH Chapel**. **Cremation** will follow at the **La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City**.



Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

Jose G. Sebastian

*Peacefully joined his Creator on
January 28, 2003 at the age of 91.*

His loving wife **Florencia Cabrera Sebastian** (†); children **Genuina & Isagani Lopez, Jr.** (†); **Andres Sr. & Linda Acevedo**; **Estelita & Emelito Ong**; **Victoria & Ramon Sison, Jr.**; **Francisco & Enrica Manalo**; siblings **Pelagia** (†), **Guadalupe** (†), **Elias, Tagumpay and Pag-Asa**; grandchildren **Michael Francis, Noel Vincent, Eugene Mari, Lili Ann & Patrick Villano, Alain, Andres, Jr, Adrian & Angelo**; **Edmund, Erwin & Emina**; **Raymund Vincent, Veena Marie & Vichka Claire**; **Ma. Angela Cecilia, Ma. Nicola Loreto, Jose Basilio, Ma. Carla Victoria, Ma. Christina Isabella, Ma. Andrea Catherine Gloria**; and great grandchild **Sofia Christina** request relatives, friends & pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Maasim, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Interment will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, 2003 at the San Ildefonso Catholic Cemetery.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die"
John 11:25-26

JOB CHAVEZ RAÑOLA, SR.

(October 29, 1937 - January 28, 2003)
of Oas, Albay and Parañaque City.

*Peacefully joined our Lord on January 28, 2003
at the age of 65.*

His loving wife **Silfa Torres**; children **Janice and Nel Lozano, Job Jr. and Lellani Rañola, Ma. Ramona and Alex Filamor**; brother and sister **Dr. Jose "Sonny" and Lita Romano**; **Jaime** (†); grandchildren **Tristan, Denise and Matthew**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on February 1, 2003 at 2:00 in the afternoon at Manila Memorial Park after the 12:00 noon Mass.

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892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

**DR. VICENTE
B. SERAPIO**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
at his home in Fremont, California
on Saturday, January 25, 2003
at the age of 79.*

He is survived by his wife Renata; children Vince & Maria, Ed & Cecilia Rivera, Bing, Joyce, Danny and Eddie; grandchildren Paul, Marisa, Christian and Clarisse; brother and sister Cesar and Salud Jacobs.

His remains will lie in state at the Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Homes, 32992 Mission Blvd., Hayward, California. Interment will be on January 29, 2003 (USA time) at the Chapel of the Chimes, after the 10:00 Mass at the Saint James of the Apostle Church.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ANGELITA PURAL TOTANES

of Legazpi City and Naga City
Former Assistant Vice President, United Coconut Planters Bank
Born November 28, 1951

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 27, 2003.

Her loving husband **Bobby**; her children **Robby Anne** and **Milo, Robert Angelo**; grandson **Myles D'Angelo**; brothers, sisters, and in-laws **Tony & Norma, Manding & Susan, Helen & Erwin**, and **Ampy**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Lignon Hills Memorial Chapels, Bogtong Road, Legazpi City until Friday midnight, January 31, 2003 and will be transferred to Funeraria Imperial in Naga City on Saturday morning, February 1, 2003.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 2, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Sto. Niño Memorial Park, Naga City after the Mass at Naga City Basilica.

**Wenedina "Wenie"
Suarez Torres**

March 16, 1962 - January 29, 2003

Her loving husband **Lito**; children **Nasya & Cyrene**; her parents **Amando & Luz**, siblings **Wilna, Willie, Winda & Welsa**; nephews & nieces, and her in-laws request the reader to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies at Funeraria Angelina, Sto. Rosario St., Angeles City.

Interment will be at Holy Mary Memorial Park on Saturday, February 1, 2003, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

*"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone,
Lord make me secure..."*

Psalm 4:9



IN LOVING MEMORY
ON HER SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

AGNES "GIRLIE" FLORES DOMINGO

Masses will be offered on January 31, 2003, Friday, for the eternal repose of her soul, at the following churches:

SAN ANTONIO de PADUA PARISH CHURCH Lincoln St., San Francisco Del Monte, Q.C.	6:00 a.m.	GREENBELT CHAPEL Ayala Center, Makati City	7:15 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH CHURCH 4927 Enrique St., Palanan, Makati City	6:00 a.m.	ST. JOHN BOSCO CHURCH Arnaiz St., Makati City	7:30 a.m.
SAN JUAN EVANGELISTA PARISH CHURCH Guimba, Nueva Ecija	6:00 a.m.	SANTUARIO de SAN ANTONIO McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH Triala Guimba, Nueva Ecija	6:00 a.m.	SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH Quezon City	8:00 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH Baguio City	6:15 a.m.	SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MANAOAG Manaoag, Pangasinan	9:00 a.m.
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH Intramuros, Manila	6:30 a.m.	MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER CHAPEL Makati City	12:00 noon
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE CHAPEL San Lorenzo Village, Makati	6:30 a.m.	ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE CHAPEL Leon Guinto, Manila	12:00 noon
ST. JUDE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE 1420 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila	6:30 a.m.	MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH 2000 Marcelo H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila	6:00 p.m.
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH CHURCH Singalong, Manila	7:00 a.m.		

RUBEN G. TICSE

of Baguio City

*Peacefully joined our Lord
last January 27, 2003
at the age of 72.*

Wife **Norma S. Ticse**; and children **Gina Ticse-Osmeña** and **Jethro S. Ticse** will deeply miss him.

His remains were cremated at Loyola Crematorium in Guadalupe last January 29, 2003.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

"There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."

1 Cor. 13:13

JUANITA VELHAGEN VELEZ

*Returned peacefully to the Father on January 28, 2003
at the age of 92.*

We, the children she had loved so much in her lifetime, **Josefina and Pedro Lusco**, **Charito and Agustín Climaco** (†), **Luis and Nancy**; **Sister Marieta, R.G.S., Asuncion, Pilar and Ernesto Garilao**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request you to pray that she may now find her eternal rest in the Father's loving embrace.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel, Nivel Hills, Cebu City.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, January 31, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Carmelite Monastery, San Jose de la Montaña, Cebu City. Interment will follow at Cebu Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, we will appreciate donations to the Good Shepherd Sisters for their ministry to the poor and marginalized girls and women.

HENRY TAN FERNANDEZ

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 29, 2003 at the age of 36.*

His bereaved wife **Rose**; daughter **Denise Kathleen**; son **Matthew Henry Gil**; parents **Judge Gil Fernandez** (†) & **Aurora Fernandez**; sisters **Doddie Felix**, **Chiqui Recaña**, **Teresa Morales**, **Eden Anastasoff**, **Irene Uy**; and brother **Ging Fernandez**; parents-in-law **Mike & Terry Gutierrez**; brothers- & sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premiere 2, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be at 8:00 a.m., Monday, February 3, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium. Thereafter, there will be a Memorial Mass at Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila where his ashes will be interred.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Pasig City • Tel. 747-8099, 747-8008 • Telex 641-1700

AURIA QUIDQUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. (0785) 527-3451, 522-2128 (0917) 434-9978

CAPIEL MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0308, 732-1005

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A S. Fortuna Street, Bantad
Makinau City Cebu • Tel. 345-2543, 345-2601

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Nevor Hills, Lungsod, Cebu City • Tel. 231-0221, 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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(047) 811-1086 (047) 229-4512; (047) 224-2014

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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Manugay Manila • Tel. 712-5102, 741-8125;
741-5123 Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
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Tel. 281-2963, 281-3034, 281-0522

FUNERARIA PANGULAN
Santo Lino cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Bldg.
Angeles City • Tel. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247

PAKEY SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
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Tel. 646-1725, 646-1730

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIDQUE
No. 67 Pasay Boulevard Extension, Pasay City
Tel. 641-7908, 641-1735

AL Alameda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tel. 642-3010, 633-3692

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
181 Riza St., Zapote Avenue, Las Pintas
Tel. 873-0507, 873-0624

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
655 J.P. Rizal St., Zapote Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 880-7550, 880-8191

FUNERARIA TUASON
Pasigian, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tel. (044) 764-0281, 878-0286, (0917) 895-0003

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luna, Cebu, Cebu
Tel. (048) 471-3375, 471-2075

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
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Tel. 820-1592, 825-9947, 825-0635

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Tel. 831-1204

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(0915) 712-1200

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East Greenbelt, Mandaluyong City
Telex 724-4139, 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tel. 852-8226, 852-7264

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1815 G. Tuason cor. Lungsod St., Sampaico, Manila
Tel. 748-3879, 781-1772

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298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 372-5084, 410-9266/67

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Pasay Manila
Tel. 822-8848, 822-8438, 400-6394

*"And in the deep night
I felt my mother rise,
And stare down upon me
With love in her eyes."*

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

**ADELAIDA AÑOVER
uda. de ONG**

October 16, 1916 - January 28, 2003

Beloved wife to **Juan Salido Ong** (†); devoted mother to **Junior and Mieh, Romy and Farita, Monet and Esther, Bobby and Mely, Jimmy and Ting, Baby and Eddie Tiotuyco**, Avo and Boy Koppin; doting lola to **Yvette and Neil Stanway, John-John and Laura, Richie, Angela and Jean-Claude Oswald, Michael and Celyn, Mackie, Joel, Carlos, Diana and Scott Boswell, Butch and Pinky, Andy and Junjun, Elanor, David, Nella and Julius Romero, Anne and Richie Macapagal, Edwin, Joel and Lotlot, and Mlu**; affectionate great-grandmother to **Simon, Maddie, Womble, Jorel, Arlette, Aliyah, EJ, and Miggy**; caring sister to **Teresita Añoover Rodriguez**.

We ask friends, relatives and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Q.C. Interment will be announced later.



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BUSINESS

PNOC-EC tasked to put up gas pipeline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Exploration Corp. said it was stepping up efforts to secure the necessary permits and financing for a 100-kilometer pipeline that would bring Malampaya's natural gas from a processing plant in Batangas to Manila.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview that the state-run firm was conducting an environmental impact assessment in preparation for securing a clearance from the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We are pushing for this project and we are prepared to work with other investors to build the pipeline," Bomasang said.

The PNOC-EC chief said a Korean company had expressed interest in taking part in the project.

"We are also trying to secure the commitment of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund at least 70 percent of the project cost," he added.

The so-called Bat-Man 1 gas

pipeline would need \$80 million to \$100 million to build, according to industry experts.

During the inauguration of the 500-megawatt, gas-fired San Lorenzo power plant on Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo tasked the Philippine National Oil Corp. to spearhead the building of Bat-Man 1 as well as a second pipeline extending the first to Bataan (Bat-Man 2).

Ms Macapagal said the pipelines were necessary to develop a bigger market for the natural gas.

"PNOC must maximize private sector participation in these projects," the President said.

In a separate interview, First Generation Holdings Corp. president Peter Garrucho Jr. reiterated that his company wanted to do the project, preferably packaged with a new power plant wherever the pipeline would end in Metro Manila.

"There is no point in putting up the pipeline without sufficient demand, which should be created by a power generation facility,"

Garrucho said.

Ms Macapagal also said on Tuesday that the privatization of National Power Corp.'s power plants in Sucat and Limay, Bataan would be fast-tracked to allow investors enough time to convert them for natural gas use.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the government was in talks with the Malampaya consortium on the lowering of the price of natural gas for the generation plants that would be built.

Only three plants are currently

using Malampaya gas, accounting for a total generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts, which is not enough to absorb the field's entire gas production.

Consortium officials have urged the government to implement necessary reforms in the power sector in order to create a bigger market for natural gas.

Aside from power generation, the government is also looking at the transport sector, industrial complexes and office buildings as possible users of the gas.

UN scores RP gov't for weak agri policies

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has so far failed to come up with programs to prepare the local agriculture sector for the removal next year of the country's farm tariffs, a recent United Nations study has said.

A study commissioned by the United Nations Development Program said the government, in trying to appease groups opposing and supporting trade liberalization, failed to decide on what specific programs to implement and what particular directions to follow to help the agriculture sector survive an increasingly liberal world trade environment.

Critics have argued that trade liberalization creates "uncertainties in the world market" that threaten local agricultural products, aggravating the poverty situation in the countryside.

There are some sectors, however, advocating trade liberalization, believing that there will be an in-

crease in export earnings from the country's high-value crops.

The UNDP study urged the government to embrace trade liberalization and focus on strengthening the agriculture sector and "addressing the challenges of liberalization."

It said apart from its weak position on trade liberalization, the government had also been ineffective in implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The poor implementation of the agrarian reform program is a sign of the continued dominance of the landed class over the country's political system, the UNDP study said.

Politics has also hindered the growth of the agriculture sector, it added.

Since 1986, the Department of Agriculture has had nine secretaries each serving an average of 20 months, the study said. This, it said, has made it impossible for the government to continue programs initiated in the agriculture sector.

RP consumer confidence level seen declining

SINGAPORE—Consumers in the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore are less optimistic in their economic outlook than their counterparts in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

MasterCard International's latest consumer survey, which was released yesterday, showed that Chinese consumers have the most optimistic outlook in the region noting that confidence was also strong in Malaysia, Thailand and New Zealand.

Consumers were asked about the outlook for the next six months for employment, economy, regular income, the stock market and quality of life.

"China continues to be the star performer with the highest consumer confidence scores across Asia/Pacific. The latest score, 84.4, registers an increase from last period's index of 73.6," MasterCard said in a statement.

"Within China, Shanghai respondents are the most hopeful today, although those in Beijing and Guangzhou appear to be almost as positive," it said.



A REGULAR Sunday crowd at the Glorietta mall in Makati City.

Malaysia, Thailand and New Zealand continue to reflect positive consumer sentiment, it said.

"The survey's latest results indicate that there is not one specific discernible trend across the region," said MasterCard senior vice president Stuart McDonald.

"It's interesting that while China continues to experience such high consumer confidence levels, nearby in Hong Kong,

they are struggling with less optimism these days."

"And while Thailand and Malaysia continue to perform quite well, other parts of Southeast Asia are less buoyant," he said.

Employment prospects seem to be a primary concern among the 5,479 consumers surveyed in 13 regional economies, he said.

Hong Kong and India recorded improvements in sentiment

but the previously optimistic markets of Australia, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea showed a downturn in the latest survey, MasterCard said.

Hong Kong's index rebounded to 21.3 from 13.9, while India's score surged to 62.1 from 42.6.

Consumer sentiment in Australia appears to be growing cautious, with the latest index of 44.6 reversed a growing trend in four previous MasterCard surveys.

Taiwan's score of 38.9 fell from 58.9 in the last survey in June, while Japan registered the lowest index level of 15.

Singapore saw its score drop more than 20 notches to 31.4 from 56.1, with consumers feeling most pessimistic about the stock market and employment.

Korean consumer confidence suffered a major decline to 39.2 from 76.5 six months earlier.

The other scores are Indonesia, down to 56.0 from 67.7, Malaysia, 73.0, New Zealand down to 65.8 from 75.2, Philippines down to 33.6 from 39.7 and Thailand down to 70.3 from 73.9. AFP

Poll says banks fare poorly in corporate governance

By Elena R. Torrijos

COMMERCIAL banks scored poorly in meeting corporate governance standards, results of a self-assessment survey of 22 commercial and universal banks in the country showed.

Conducted by the Institute of Corporate Directors, the survey highlighted several priority areas for immediate attention and action by the banks.

"For example, we found out that many corporate boards are still not involved in strategic issues. Many boards here are rubber stamps, really," ICD president and chief executive officer Jesus Estandis said.

Estandis said there was a need for the boards to set up an annual board agenda and ensure that topics were fully covered.

The former finance secretary also noted that, based on the results, many bank boards do not look closely at their company's audited financial statements. They also have not been looking into treasury operations, a dominant contributor to bank revenue, he added.

The 22 commercial banks gave themselves a weighted score of 6.33 for items under the heading "the board," 7.21 for the items under "The chairman," 8 for "members of the board," 6.52 for "board meetings," and 7.33 for "board committees and board issues."

Based on the ICD's criteria, a score of 9 is broadly satisfactory, a score of between 7 and 9 deserves attention for action and a score of 7 and below should get considerable attention for immediate action.

Gov't eyes 500M euros in new borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE GOVERNMENT plans to raise 500 million euros from the international debt market to help cover its budget gap this year, banking sources said yesterday.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho refused to comment on the reported fresh borrowing, but confirmed that the government was still considering various financing options.

"We continue to look for opportunities to finance our requirements," Camacho said.

Banking sources, however, said the government had already started evaluating proposals from banks for the pricing of the euro-denominated bonds with maturities of five, seven or 10 years.

The sources said the new offering was expected to be priced after the Chinese New Year on Feb. 1.

In a separate interview, a Manila-based investment banker said it made sense for the government to pursue a euro-denominated borrowing because this was a huge market that was still untapped.

"If you look at the pronouncement of the government, there is a preference to diversify its sources of funds because a big portion of the existing debt was dollar-denominated," the banker said.

Given the government's huge financing requirements this year, the banker explained that a euro-based borrowing presented good opportunities.

This developed as some investors started shifting from dollar to euro assets given the perception that euro assets present better opportunities amidst threats of war between the United States and Iraq.

The banker also said the government had

already made inroads into the euro market, having been able to raise about 850 million euros in the last few years.

The government has about 500 million euros in debts maturing in 2006 and another 350 million falling due in September next year.

Although the government was paying a premium for its euro borrowings vis-a-vis US dollar debts, the banker said it made sense to take advantage of this market.

Hedging against the possible impact of a war breakout in the Middle East, the government has been in a borrowing binge since the start of the year. It closed a \$500-million 10-year global bond early this month and recently, a \$200-million zero-coupon bond.

The government is expecting to incur a budget deficit of P202 billion this year. Last year's budget gap amounted to P212.7 billion.

DOF junks bid to scrap insurance policy tax

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance junked yesterday a proposal to scrap the documentary stamp tax on insurance policies but presented a compromise package to make taxation on the insurance sector more equitable.

In a speech before the Philippine Life Insurance Association, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho recognized the distortions caused by the DST treatment on insurance policies—currently taxed based on the amount insured rather than the premium paid.

"We are aware that the present DST is collected upfront without regard for the possibility of policy discontinuance which makes the present DST basis unfair to policyholders," Camacho said.

As such, he said, the finance department has already informed Congress of its proposal to change the tax base for DST on life insurance policies to the amount of premium paid instead of the amount insured.

"The proposed modification in the DST base also reflects the ob-

jective of the DST reform measure that the base must represent the actual value of the present transaction—in this case, the amount of premium paid and not the policy face value," he explained.

On top of the proposed change in the DST base, Camacho said, the DOF is also willing to replace the basis of the 5-percent premium tax.

"As a basis for taxation, the premium tax approach has the advantage of simplicity in administration. However, the DOF recognizes that the premium tax is taxing the savings portion of the insurance premium as well, which is inconsistent with the treatment extended to bank deposits where the principal amount is not taxed," Camacho explained.

He acknowledged that bank deposits and the savings portion of an insurance premium could be both considered capital and, therefore, should not be taxed.

"Our proposal is to free from taxation the savings portion of the insurance premium," Camacho said.

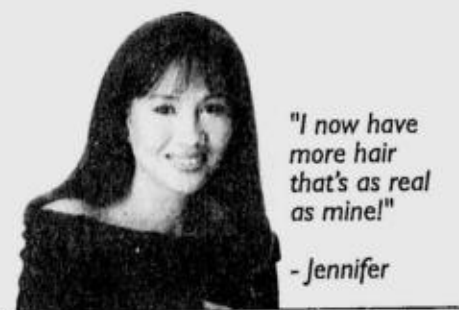
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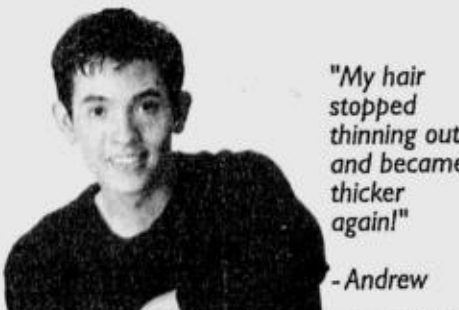
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- Jennifer



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- Andrew

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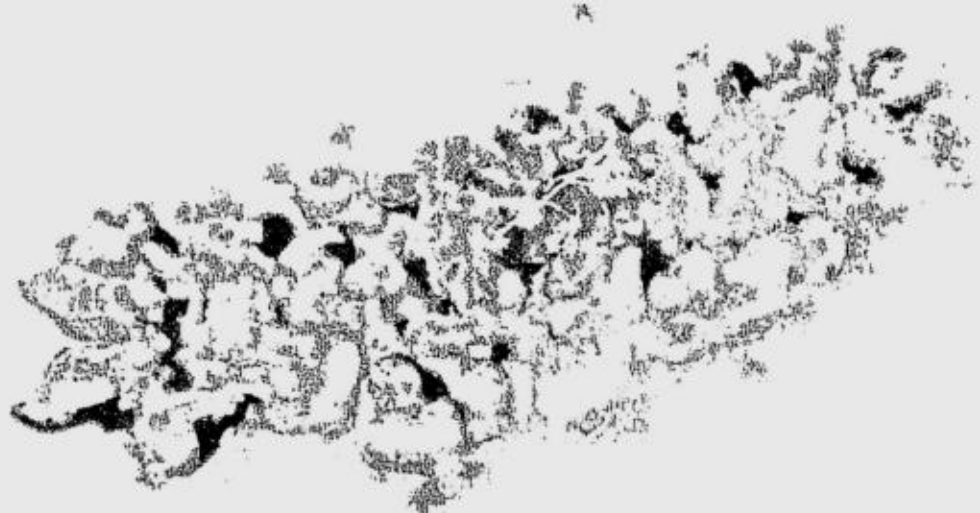
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RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

Feb. 02, Sun. — GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 2. With Chorizo and Roasted Garlic Cream, Chonzo and Shrimp in Saffron Cream, Duck Farfalle with Dried Currants, Gene's Favorite Tortellini, Salmon Lasagna with Saffron Sauce and Linguine alla Vongole Salsa Bianca. P880.00 with all the ingredients included 9:00–12:00 noon.

Feb. 3 & 5, Mon. & Wed. — COOKING FOR 2. Whether it's pure romance or beating the crowded Valentine's restaurants, Chef Gino gives tasty meaning to cooking — Cooking for 2. Recipes include a no-tail shopping list. Learn to prepare Duet of Pumpkin and Spinach Soup, Prosciutto and Olive Pasta, Salmon Fillet with Dill Crème Reduction, Rib-eye Steak with Onion Demi-glace and Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Mango Fritters with Chocolate Ginger Sauce for the 1st Day and on the 2nd Day learn Mixed Greens with Tarragon Vinaigrette, Quick Onion Soup, Seabass Moutarde with Charterelle Cream, Mediterranean Style Lamb Chops and Apple Crumble with Butterscotch Sauce topped with Vanilla Ice Cream for P1,200 per day from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 04, Tues. — GOURMET SANDWICHES 1. Great tasting sandwiches from Chef Jun-Jun de Guzman who's been running Calle Ago-go, a haven for NY deli and Italian panini sandwiches. To be demonstrated are as follows: Classic Reuben, Cobb Sandwich, Pesto Shrimp Panini, Four Cheese & Sun-dried Tomato Focaccia and Chinese Ham and Cheddar Cheese Sandwich. Gourmet Sandwiches will also include a salad and a pasta dish for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 05, Thurs. — SIMPLE CHINESE MEAL FOR THE HOME 1. Learn exotic flavors and delicious meals with just the stir-fry method from Chef Gino's travel collection. Recipes include Black Sauce Spareribs, Three Colored Eggs, Steamed Crabs with Eggs, Oyster Omelette with Fermented Bean Curd, Spicy Dry Chicken Curry and Salted Fish and Chicken Fried Rice for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 07 & 08, Fri & Sat. — THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2. Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastermaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you (hands-on) the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and roasting on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Saville, Café Toroni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 9:00–1:00 for Ph 3,000.00 for the 2 days.

Feb. 09, Sun. — SOUTHEAST ASIAN MEAL 2. Here's another set of complete and easy to prepare meal from our nearby Southeast Asian countries. The recipes include Kway Teow (Maltay Fried Noodles), Santal Tomat, Nasi Goreng (Bak Style Fried Rice), Yam Sorn-O (Thai's Pomelo Salad), Tom Gathi Hei Mang-Pu (Herbed Soup of Mussel in Coconut Milk), Sate Ayam (Chicken Sate), Karl Tator and Gula Melaka (Tapioca and Raw Sugar Dessert) for P880.00 including all ingredients from 9:00–12:00 noon.

Feb. 10, Mon. — SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 3. Another set of easy to do recipes from Chef Gino that the whole family would enjoy. Recipes include Buffalo Wings, Breaded Calamari with Cocktail Sauce, Gruyere and Bacon Souffle, Herbed Tuna Casserole, Roasted Gourmet Chicken with Portwine Sauce and Mocha Mud Pie for P1,200.00 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 11, Tues. — SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 2. Chef Gene teaches his favorite exotic sausages like Fresh Pork Sausage with Apple and Dried Onion, Italian Sausage with 3 Cheeses and Red Wine, Duck Sausage with Fresh Sage and Roasted Garlic, Greek Sausage Loukanika, Tuscan Sausage, Numburg Sausage and Sweet Italian Sausage. The workshop includes introductory set such as funnel, prague powder, accord powder and casing for P1,300.00 from 10–3 PM.

Feb. 12, Wed. — SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 4. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Recipes include Cream of Spinach Soup, Corn, Asparagus and Green Salad; Fish Mito at Caparas; Meatloaf with Pan Gravy and Pennacotta with Honey for P1,200.00, all ingredients from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 13, Thurs. — DAVE'S PARTY SPECIALS. Let Chef David teach us his favorite party specials such as Lasagna with Tomato and Meat Sauce, Lasagna with White Sauce and Chicken, Shepherd's Pie, Pandesal with Basil and many more recipes that you will surely enjoy. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00–4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

Feb. 16, Sun. — SIMPLE JAPANESE MEAL 1. Chef Gene will teach us easy to prepare Japanese meal with recipes like Wakame Soup, Edo Tempura, Uki Kintoki, Chahan Mushi, and Chicken Katsu. Recipes include all ingredients for P880.00 from 9:00–12:00 noon.

Feb. 17, Mon. — GREAT TASTING SALADS 1. Let's make all these salads and it may be the next sandwich filling, pasta sauce or the main course dish itself. Chef Jun-Jun will show you how to make the following: Chicken, Pecan and Grape Salad, Spinach and Pear Layer with Warm Bacon Sauce; Smoked Salmon Topped Iceberg Lettuce with Lemon Capers Dressing; Watercress and Salsim Mix with Raspberry Vinaigrette; Fishy-Fatty Tomato with Molcan Salad Sauce and Anguila; Mango and Prosciutto Salad. From 1:00–4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00 including all ingredients. Plus a bonus recipe to go with your salad.

Feb. 18, Tues. — THE ART OF JAPANESE FRYING. Chef Rikichi Aoki from Osaka, Japan teaches the simple art of Japanese Fried Dishes in this class that features Tempura, Katsudon, Tonkatsu, Donburi plus the sauces that accompanies every dish. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 19, Wed. — SPOON DESSERTS 2. Easy and Appetizing desserts, the sequel to the popular dessert class of Chef Junjun that is recommended for everyone, housewives, caterers and food service owners. Recipes include Pavlova with Lemon Curd, Dalandan Crème Caramel, Hazelnut Dome, Pennacotta with Santal Preserve, Bittersweet Than Sex and English Trifle for P1,500.00 from 10:00–4:00 p.m. including all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

Feb. 20, Thurs. — SPANISH MEALS 1. Sopa de Setas, Ensaladilla de Arroz, Bacalao a la Vizcaina, Pollo con Jerez, Mechado con Salsa de Cerveza and Manzanas Rellenas con Crema are the recipes from Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palette for us to enjoy and learn. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00–4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00. NEW CLASS.

Feb. 21, Fri. — DAVE'S PASTA SAUCES 2. Here's a sequel to Chef David's pasta sauces 1 which includes Spaghetti Marinara, Fettucine Carbonara, Cold Fusilli with Olives, Penne Arrabata and Linguine with Spicy Shrimps for P1,200.00 from 10:00–4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

Feb. 22, Sat. — THAI BARBECUE 1. Different kinds of genuine Thai Barbecue with sauces and side dish from Chef Chanya like Chicken Barbecue, Grilled Catfish, Grilled Pork Belly, Grilled Pork Spareribs, Different Kinds of Sauces and Papaya Salad for P1,200.00 including all the ingredients from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 23, Sun. — PAELLAS & RISOTTOS 1. Recipes from Chef Gene like Wild Mushroom and Saffron Risotto with Parmesan, Seafood Risotto with Prosciutto, Squid Ink Paella, Paella alla Majorcana and Arroz con Manscos from 9:00–12:00 noon for P 880.00 including all ingredients.

Feb. 24, Mon. — THAI FAVORITES 4. Another set of recipes from Chef Chanya Thai-kupt for everyone to enjoy. Recipes include Shrimp Cake with Plum Sauce, Crispy Lapu-lapu in Chili Sauce, Mannated Spareribs, Chicken Massaman Curry and Crabmeat Fried Rice. Including all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

Feb. 25, Tues. — EASY CATERING DISHES. Chef Jun-Jun de Guzman will help you run an in-house catering and food take-out business. He will discuss menu planning, costing, food portioning, preparation, presentation and others. Dishes to be demonstrated are as follows: Chorizo and Mushroom Platter, Assorted Green Salad with Homemade Ranch Dressing and Pesto Vinaigrette, Eggplant Mousakka, Chicken Imperial, Royal Lapu-lapu and White Chocolate Trameau. Recipes include all ingredients for Ph 1,500.00 from 10:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 26, Wed. — BASIC SUSHI AND SASHIMI WORKSHOP 2 Recipes from Chef Aoki of Osaka, Japan for the 2nd part of his Sushi and Sashimi Workshop that include Trimming of Flat Fish, Sushi Rice, Rainbow Roll, Futomaki Roll, Tamagoyaki, Gan (Pickled Ginger) and Aji (Pickled Fish) for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Feb. 27, Thurs. — SPANISH MEALS 2. Another set of Spanish meal from Ms. Betina Legarda such as Mayonesa a la Pancha, Ensalada de Garbanzos, Alun con Patatas, Albondigas Especiales, Solomillo con Porras and Menor de Almendras. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00–4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00. NEW CLASS

Feb. 28, Fri. — CHOCOLATE DELIGHTS. From the makers of the world's best chocolate, Barry Callebaut, Chef Junjun presents 8 tempting desserts for everyone to enjoy. The recipes are Double Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Passion, White Chocolate Crème Brulee, Decadent Brownies, Chocolate Orange Cake and Choco-Liquor Loaf for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00–4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

THE PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian cooking, wine appreciation and table service.

The program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare a Legacy buffet. The program has Internship or In-house Practicum for 200 hours and Externship or Outside Practicum for 200 hours. Enrollment includes 2 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used.

Classes will start on February. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Gladys

David's
Tea House has
an inexhaustible
menu for the
adventurous
diner

LO Han Chai

Chinese cooking that can't keep still

From page C1

In the Steamed Prawn with Garlic Sauce, the juicy freshness of the prawn clashes with the pungency of garlic in a symphony of contrasts. There's also Minced Pork with Eggplant simmering in a pot that gives off the smell of spicy delight. Also try the house specialty: David's Fried Chicken, which is distinguished by its crispy, tangy taste. There's also Crystal Chicken, which is native chicken from Hong Kong, steamed and cooked, topped off with soup.

You can never go wrong with the vegetable dishes, such as Hon Chai and Beef Broccoli, both garnished minimally so as to give their takers the real vegetable zest.

Beef is best

But perhaps the most interesting dishes are beef-based. Try especially the Baby Beef Spareribs: it is really Angus beef steamed and garnished that melts in the mouth when taken and explodes in a binary of opposing tastes—light and heavy, easy and hearty.

But don't rely on this brief survey. Chances are some of the items in the menu will have changed once you step into David's Tea House. This is because David Yan is a restaurateur who just can't keep still. And like restaurateur, like menu: the adventure in Chinese cooking just keeps going.

LOTUS Leaves Laf Mai Rice



If your body can't go on a vacation, let your mind take the trip.

TRAVEL
Sundays

Weekend barbecue

HAVING a backyard cookout is one fun option for families during weekends. Spice them up with something new and tangy.

Savor the delectable taste and aroma of Chili Kebabs, created by chef Reggie Aspiras exclusively for HP Sauce. This recipe can be easily prepared and is great for any occasion. HP Sauce is another quality product from the makers of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.

Chicken N' Pork Chili Kebabs

250-300 g chicken breasts, sliced and pounded and pork loin
¼ c HP Sauce
¼ c HP Barbecue Sauce
1 tsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
1 tbsp sugar
¼ cup HP Chili Sauce
zucchini, carrots
1 tbsp vegetable oil
Slice chicken and pork into barbecue-size cuts. Pound chicken and pork meats.

For barbecue marinade: In a bowl, put in the HP sauce, HP barbecue sauce, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, sugar, and 1 c HP chili sauce. Whisk.

Cube the zucchini and car-

rots. Arrange pounded chicken and pork alternately with cubed carrots and zucchini or skewers.

In a griller, heat up the vegetable oil. Grill skewered barbecue meat and vegetables.

Brush with the remaining barbecue marinade. Grill until meats are cooked on both sides. To assemble: Arrange grilled skewered barbecue on a platter. Garnish with salad greens (mesclun preferred), two slices of red tomatoes cut into rings, and also serve with paper-thin slices of carrots. Drizzle salad greens with the dressing sauce.

Salad dressing: In a bowl, put in 1 tbsp HP Fruity Sauce, 1 tbsp white wine vinegar, 2 tsp sugar, ¼ tsp salt and pepper to taste, ¼ tsp pepper. Whisk.



Welcoming the year of the goat with great food

SUPER Bowl of China and Big Buddha Restaurant offer the Phoenix Fish. It is marinated with the finest ingredients, breaded and fried to a crisp, buttered to perfection and served with homemade sauce. Meanwhile, the two casual dining restaurants welcome the Chinese New Year by treating guests to a lion dance performance at Super Bowl SM Megamall on Jan. 31, 6 p.m.; Glorietta 4, Feb. 1, 6 p.m.; Jupiter Street, Makati, 8 p.m.; and Big Buddha, Greenbelt 3, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

DINING OUT

CAFÉ All Day will be giving away Two Stack Banana Nut Pancake coupons for a minimum food and beverage purchase of P500 from Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Pancake coupons are valid on your next visit. Café All Day is on the 2/F Tequila Joe's El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen holds Chinese New Year promo from Jan. 31-Feb. 2. CPK will be giving away P100 rebate for P1,500 minimum food and beverage purchase. CPK outlets are located at Tomas Morato, Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta 3 Makati and Alabang Town Center.

TEQUILA Joe's will be giving away rebates this Chinese New Year! Dine with family and friends at TJ's from Jan. 31-Feb. 2. A minimum food and beverage cash purchase of P1,000 entitles you to a P100 rebate placed inside the lucky ampao. Visit Tequila Joe's at El Pueblo in Ortigas Center, Glorietta 4 Makati, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center in Cebu, Tomas Morato and Robinsons Malate.

NEW World Renaissance Hotel welcomes the coming of the Year of the Goat with a 12-day celebration until Feb. 7. The hotel's Cantonese restaurant Emperor Court offers a Special Set Menu and A la Carte Menu. Lunch and dinner buffets are also offered from Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Tikoy, the traditional Chinese New Year delicacy, will be given to diners from Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Call 811-6888 local 3338.

THE PENINSULA Manila's Nielsen's Restaurant celebrates Chinese New Year on Feb. 1. All-time Chinese favorites like century eggs, roast duck with hoisin sauce, *hargao*, *siomai*, Peking duck, roast suckling pig and yards and yards of noodles will be offered. For the sweet tooth, there's Chinese New Year pudding, *buchi*, assorted *hopia* and *tikoy*. Call 887-2888 local 2951.

THE MANILA MIDTOWN Hotel's Lobby will stage this year's Dragon-Lion Dance on Feb. 1. Complement the experience with a Chinese feast that's fit for an emperor at the Vogue Coffeeshop. Call 526-7001 local 6222 to 23.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila welcomes the Year of the Goat with bountiful feast and festivities until Feb. 1. Partake of the



KUNG Hei Fat Choi at the New World Renaissance Hotel



FOREST Grill, located at 12 Jupiter St., Bel-Air IV, Makati City, offers Fish and Chips with special sauce. The restaurant accepts catering for all occasions. Call 896-5240 or 897-7949.

Lunar New Year buffet for P680+. Some of the specialties are dried oysters with sea moss, steamed garupa with teochow and roast duck, among others. All diners (a la carte or buffet) will receive fortune cookies, *ang pao* and mandarin oranges for good luck. Guests will also witness the tossing of the Yu Sheng salad or Lo Hei at Restaurant Riviera, a tradition usually celebrated on the 15th day of the Lunar New Year, or "ren ri" which literally means "people's day" or "everyone's birthday." Call 854-8888 local 7355.

health and good fortune to guests and diners of the hotel. Call 633-7111 locals 7440 and 7416.

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field welcomes the Year of the Goat with a Dragon Dance on Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Then enjoy Mequeni Café's lunch and dinner buffet complete with soup selections, a salad station, hot and cold varieties in the spread and desserts for P390+. Call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000.

THE NEW Phoenix Fish from Super Bowl of China and Big Buddha Restaurant

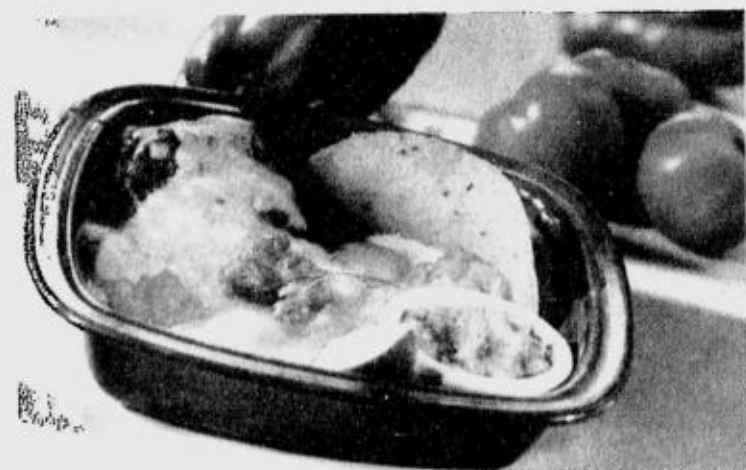
THE MANILA Galleria Suites welcomes the year with a spread of Chinese fare at Raphael Café Restaurant's lunch and dinner Chinese Food Fest on Feb. 1 and 2. Also on Feb. 2 at noon, watch the Lion and Dragon Dance exhibition bringing good luck, good



CPK'S Mandarin Chicken Salad: an Oriental tea-smoked chicken salad with hoisin plum dressing



TEQUILA Joe's Kung Pao Spaghetti has tender pieces of shrimp with garlic, scallions, peanuts and red hot chilies in a classic Kung Pao sauce.



HUEVOS Rancheros from Café All Day: two perfectly made over-easy eggs on a tortilla de maiz, literally swimming in fresh red chili with refried beans and tortillas.

In the celebration of the
Chinese New Year
and the
500 years of Filipino - Chinese partnership
through Culture and the Arts

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Welcome Year of the Water Goat!

Jade Garden Set Menu -

- Roasted Meat Combination
- Fish Lip Soup w/ Sea Cucumber
- Dried Oysters w/ Sea Moss (Fat Choy Hoe Si)
- Steamed King Fish
- Mutton in Oriental Sauce (Yeung Yeung Tak Yi)
- Shrimps w/ E Fu Noodles (He He Ha Ha)
- Yeung Chow Fried Rice
- Dessert: Chinese Tikoy

Peking Garden Set Menu -

- Four kinds of Appetizer
- Braised Shark's Fin Soup w/ Sea food
- Peking Duck
- Prawns w/ Sweet & Spicy Sauce
- Braised Dried Oysters w/ Sea Moss & Lettuce
- Steamed Hilsa Herring
- Baked Crabs w/ Ma Por Beancurd
- Two-toned Rice topping
- Steamed Supreme Soup & Pork Dumplings
- Dessert: chilled Mango Shake w/ Sago

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JADE GARDEN and PEKING GARDEN are affiliates of Maxim's Group of Restaurants, Hongkong.

Kitchen stampede, or remembering a little of 19th-century Manila

THE JOYFUL Cook was creaming butter with fine, granulated white sugar to make what her family calls an "eating cake"—the kind that is "cake-y" and not airy, does not need frosting to taste good, and can be held between the fingers rather than eaten with a fork. Nearby stood a warm cup of mango tea, the leaves imported by her friend Alex from a Sri Lankan plantation.

"Do you know that in 1854, you could not get white sugar in Manila? Ivan Goncharov, an esteemed colleague of famous playwright Anton Chekov, branded Manila tea 'medicine.' It was served to him half-cold and muddy looking, the latter because there was yet no sugar refinery in the country and only brown demerara sugar was in use," noted Saint Sandok.

"We had Russian visitors in Manila at that time?" asked TJC. "What were they doing here?"

First fondas

"Goncharov logged the Russian circumnavigation captained by Admiral Putyalin from 1852 to 1855. Remember that in those days people were still just getting to know that civi-

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente
Sta. Maria



lizations lived beyond their horizons. Sending an official team on a voyage around the world then was like sending an adventurous crew to another planet now.

"Goncharov had heard there was a French hotel in Manila. It turned out to be a two-story *fonda* built after the fashion of intramural residences. Just go to the Old Walled City today, walk the narrow streets, and look up at the reconstructed residences near San Agustin Church. That would give you some idea of the general architecture.

"Spain got its word *fonda* from the Turkish *fondack*, meaning an inn where board and lodging are provided for a fee."

"Were the inns good at the time?" asked TJC.

"Let me tell you what Goncharov experienced. I can't remember the street just now, but he stayed at the one owned by Monsieur Damien, who was 35 years old at the time. A vast dining room was the first thing you saw after ascending the principal staircase. Beyond long tables and large ceiling fans that reminded him of Singapore was a gallery, open on all sides. It led to reception rooms. Bedrooms opened into a corridor.

"Goncharov paid one Spanish dollar—half a US dollar then probably—inclusive daily of meals. Tea, coffee, or chocolate was served to him in bed upon waking, then he went for breakfast at 10 a.m., dinner at 4 p.m., and tea at 8 p.m. The schedule reflects how climate affected custom," Sandok noted.

"I remember reading that churches opened before dawn but closed at 8 a.m., and our famed cigar factories where each product was supposedly 'rolled on a deliciously chocolate-colored woman's thigh' closed at 11 a.m. because the heat was unbearable," said TJC. "No carriages from noon to 5 p.m. for the horses' sake," she added.



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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Experience a number of exciting activities and events in Singapore this Lunar New Year. And in the same festive spirit, enjoy a complimentary Ang Pow.

- Lunar New Year Light-Up - Follow the trail of ruby-red lanterns and enchanting fairy lights. • Chinatown • 11 Jan - 15 Feb 2003
- Singapore River Hong Bao 2003 - A riverside carnival with arts, rides, food and of course, spectacular fireworks. • Marina Promenade • 30 Jan - 15 Feb 2003
- Chingay Singapore 2003 - Don't miss Singapore's grandest street parade: this year's theme is 'Ocean of Harmony'. • South Bridge Road • 8 Feb 2003
- Huay Chinese Festival of Arts - Enjoy this grand celebration of Chinese arts and culture. • Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay • 6 - 16 Feb 2003
- Ticketing information from www.sistic.com.sg

Fann Wong - MediaCorp Artiste
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*Free New Year goodies from Dragon City Group, Parco Bugis Junction, Bee Cheng Hiang Da Dong Restaurant, Floating Seafood Restaurant and Smiling Orchid, and many other discount vouchers. *Terms and conditions apply. While stocks last. Valid for travel from 15 Jan - 15 Mar 2003.

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Damien's tablecloth could not be seen because all courses were laid out simultaneously... French stew and vegetables, meat and fish served 'English style'—simply grilled, broiled, spit-turned

Meal times

"During meals, Damien's tablecloth could not be seen because all courses were laid out simultaneously. One could have a French stew accompanied by pickles, French-style vegetables plus buttered corn on the cob, then meat and fish served 'English style'—simply grilled, broiled, spit-turned.

"I overheard Goncharov say that the service handled by native boys reminded him of horses stampeding. There was 'a deafening clatter' that made the wooden floors shake and the furniture dance," recounted Saint Sandok.

"Guess the transfer of western etiquette and table manners was just as difficult to handle then as now," TJC commented. She was struck how waiters and waitresses even in many fine dining establishments and top hotels today are untrained in removing tableware and glassware without making the slightest sound, much less in moving hands and bodies gracefully and quietly as they clear table.

"He was having a terrible time with the weather. What saved him was lemonade, maybe made from *calamansi* or *dayap* since I'm not sure there were lemons. He must have been conditioned to a wintry state of mind, because he was here mid-February and that's already our cool-time. Why as January ends now, it's quite comfortable.

Challenging accommodations

"Wooden four-poster beds with blue muslin mosquito nets and night-lights fueled by coconut butter were in use. *Butiki* never failed to attract attention, if not concern, from travelers. But Goncharov discovered there was more to be anxious about than lizards chasing bugs atop one's mosquito net.

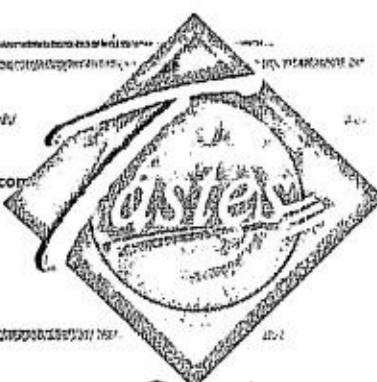
"A hot bath cost 4 reales, one-fifth the price of a whole day's accommodations. Cold baths were free. Damien devised a system so he could bring water straight up from Pasig River, which ran along one side of the compound, to two stalls set up on the veranda facing the courtyard. All a bather had to do was tug on a ceiling cord and expect cooling water to pour into the tub one stood in.

"With little success in one stall, Goncharov dressed, went into the adjacent bath and undressed again. 'I merely touched the cord and a copious shower began to sprinkle me,' he said. But the refreshing shower turned into an incessant waterfall splashing everything, even his clothes that draped over an armchair. Salvation arrived when a shipmate happened by and a boy on the staff was summoned.

"Damien's closed four years later. Visitors were left with a choice of comforts offered by the homes of European residents or two hotels that an Austrian physician said 'lagged far behind the commonest country inn in North America or the British colonies.' Hotel Francaise managed by Monsier Dubosse and Hotel Fernando run by a North American charged four to five times what Goncharov paid. Dubosse's was situated on the harbor and attracted ship's captains, making it the noisiest and filthiest of the two. Dubosse's widow continued the business into the 1860s after her husband accompanied a French army expedition as a messman to Peking where he was felled. I wonder if it was Damien's old investment under a change of hands," ventured Saint Sandok.

The grand hotel and its less expensive cousins were still a few decades away for Manilans. But as Sandok continued to tell, Damien's was a great improvement from the mat, pillow, salt, vinegar, wood and cooking vessels that every Casa Real was duty-bound to provide travelers. The deputy governors in provinces were also responsible for securing horses and guides. To prevent over-charging tourists, a large placard marked government-sanctioned prices for meat, poultry and other common needs. The imperial representative was personally duty-bound to give hospitality but never charge for it.

Next: Kisses in the kitchen



OUTBACK RESTAURANT
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 Outback Makati Glorietta 4



Year of the goat, year of the 'kaldereta'

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
 Photos By Jim Guiao Punzalan

THIS is the Year of the Goat and despite all kinds of counseling on what to do to bring about luck and prosperity, a Pinoy will think of "kaldereta" when he hears the word "goat."

YEAR/D4

No kidding, the goat's meat in the Pinoy's favorite 'pulutan' is high in protein and low in fat and cholesterol

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MS. AVELINA CARBUNGO FLORENDO introduced cake decorating techniques in the Philippines the WILTON WAY, the AUSTRALIAN way of making gum paste flowers with very fine wiring and lace on fondant, the ENGLISH way or LAMBERT WORK of overtopped scrolls and strings of very tiny flowers, the SWISS CHOCOLATE TECHNIQUE and GUM PASTE DOLL course. She and her son Jun, introduced the latest technique which they learned in Tel Aviv, York & London, British Super craft and The International Cake Exposition Society, August 24-28, 2002 at Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.

1) Feb. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2003 / 8:30 am - 5 pm - **MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING** - P8,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. March 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2003

2) Feb. 8 - **NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND COOKIES** - P3,000. Cooked Carrot Cake, Banana Cake, Peanut Butter, Coconut, Chocolate Chips & Chocolate Nut Cookies, Hopla, Sloops. March 8, 2003

3) Feb. 10, 11, 12, 13, 2003 / 8:30 am - 5 pm - **ADVANCED GUM PASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING** - P8,500. New method of gum paste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. March 10, 11, 12, 13

4) Feb. 15 - **LEARN SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS** - P4,000. Banana Cake, Apple Almond Cake, Chocolate Walnut Cookies, Carrot Cake, All Wheat Bread & Raisin Bread. March 15, 2003

5) Feb. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2003 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - **COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE** - P2,500 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling, 2) Rose, Calliopa, Cymbidium 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies. 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes. (Each set are lessons covered for one day.)

6) Feb. 13, 2003 / 8 am - 5 pm - **NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS, RIBBONS & QUILTING** - P3,000. Next schedule: Feb. 19 & March 13, 2003

7) Feb. 22, 2003 - **DRAGEE & RIBBON MAKING** - P3,000. Make your own edible dragees pearl, silver, gold & any color, ribbon of any size using new textured rollers. March 22, 2003

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9) Feb. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 - **SPECIAL BAKING** - P11,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration. March 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2003

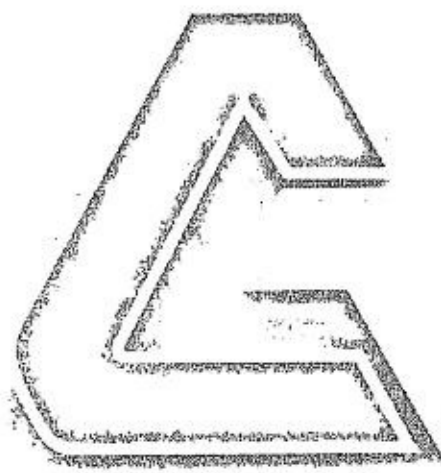
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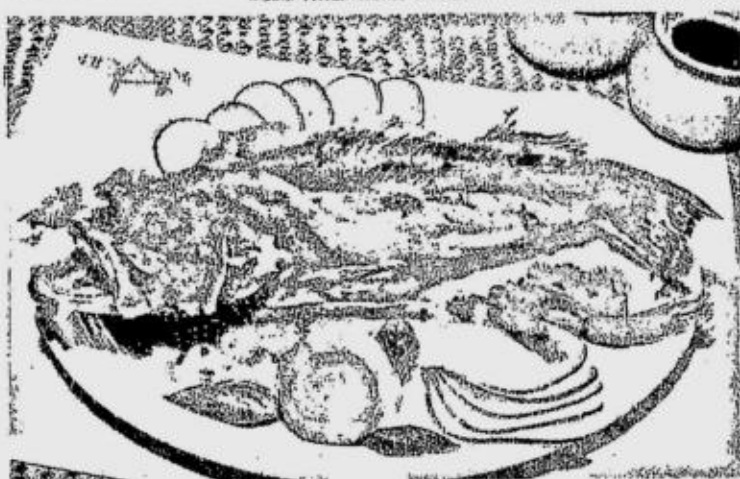
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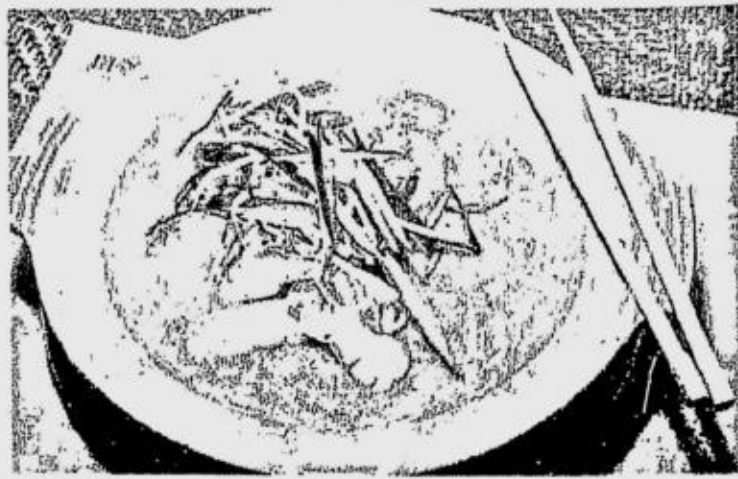




LAPU-LAPU with Tamarind Sauce



VIETNAMESE Spring Rolls



POT Laksa

Melting pot of flavors and spices

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Roger Carpio

IT'S the sublime meeting of cultures on a platter that brings forth the robust flavors of this cuisine. A marriage of Indian, Singaporean-Chinese and native Malay with touches of Thai and Vietnamese, Malaysian fare is known as the melting pot of spices and herbs, now ready for the taking by adventurous Filipino foodies.

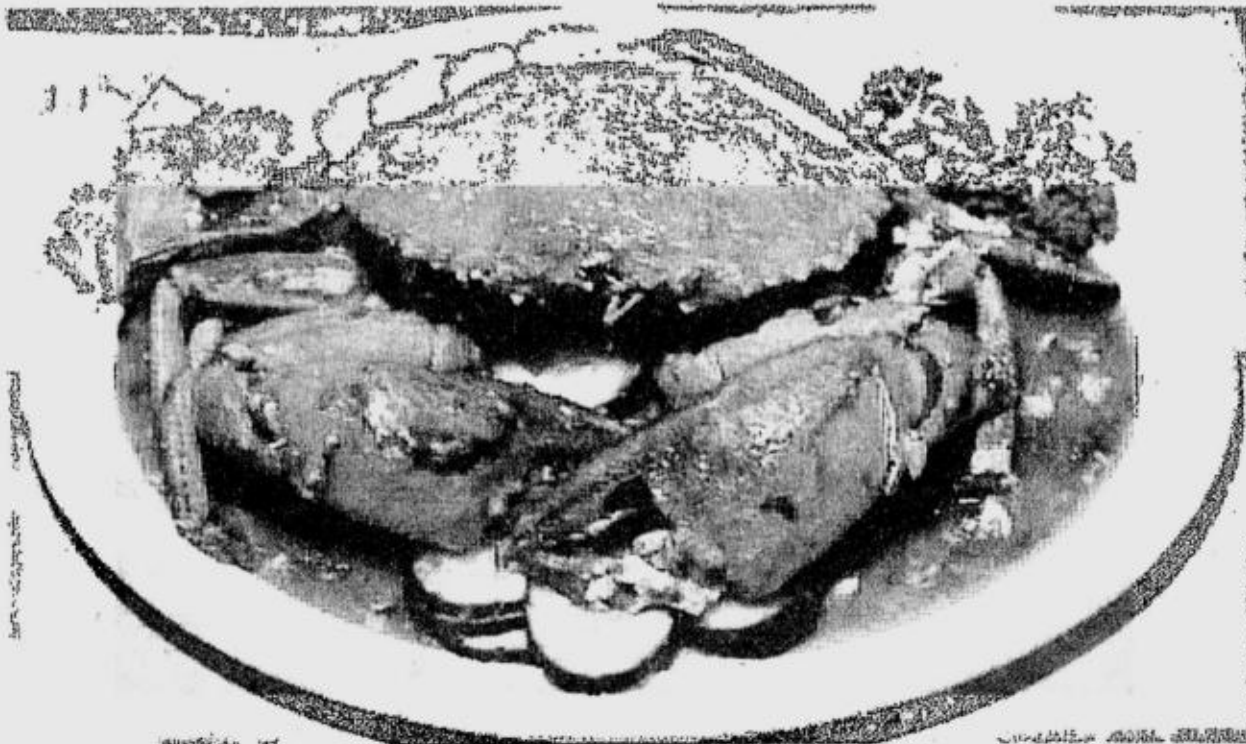
Introducing this interesting exotic menu in its full glory is the 6-month-old Penang restaurant on the 3/L The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. While Malaysian food is getting popular in the United States and Australia, it has yet to make its mark in the Philippines.

"It's a new dining experience, something different," says Marc Licaros, one of the eight young partners who own the restaurant. While he does acknowledge Penang has a few competitors, he says the restaurant focuses mainly on the traditional and classic Malaysian food cooked home-style the Penang way.

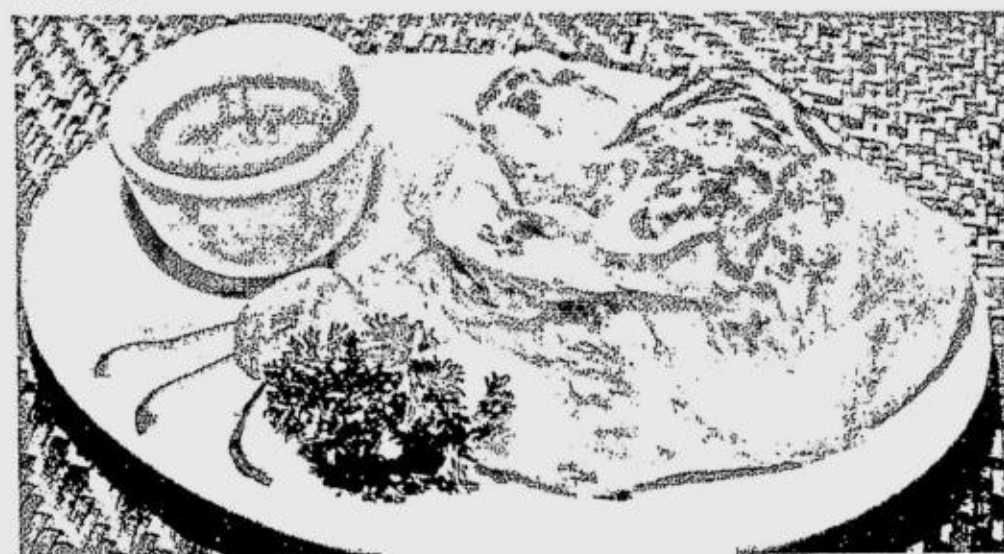
What exactly is the Penang culinary style?

Like many countries the world over, each town, nay, even each family, has a way of cooking certain food in Malaysia. The Penang cooking style is more traditional, spicy and flavorful since it mixes many herbs and spices in one dish.

"Marc is a perfectionist in the kitchen—the



CHILI Crab



ROTI Canai

food is never good enough," says another partner, Gina Mok, who takes care of the marketing while Licaros runs the kitchen. Through Licaros' attention to detail, Mok says the restaurant's food differ from its local competitors that mostly serve Malaysian hawker or street-food style.

Authentic

To make the epicurean experience as authentic as possible, ingredients that can't be sourced locally are imported. From the Thai curry paste to the laksa noodles, Penang will not settle for second best; not even the Visayan specialty *bagoong* called *guinamos* will substitute for the *sambal belechan* paste although the two are very similar.

While variety is the spice of every Malaysian food, it's the red-hot flames of chilies and spices that ultimately give the dishes that indelible kick.

Licaros admits when they first opened the place, Filipino guests found the food too spicy while the Malaysians thought it was a tad too tame. Today, guests can request for adjustment to their taste.

"We may have perfected some items on the menu, but we're constantly working to improve the food," he says.

Since Malaysia is a Muslim country, beef and lamb are the meat staples, although pork



GINA Mok, Tina Tuazon, Marc Licaros

is served in Singaporean-Chinese dishes.

Penang has a wide selection of seafood, and has seven different dishes for the crabs alone. The bestseller among these crustaceans is the Chili Crab, fried and served on a bed of hot chili *sambal* sauce. Another winner is the all-time Malaysian fave Pot Laksa. The imported coarse rice noodles submerged in

seafood stew has an interesting crunch. With mussels and squid in its rich and spicy coconut sauce, the serving on a huge bowl can stand as a meal by itself.

Appetizer to dessert

Rotis are the most popular among Penang's specialty, for which it has four varieties. Roti traces its roots to India where it is often substituted for rice. It is a thin, chewy yet flaky pancake-like dough either mixed with butter or other spices, and may be eaten on its own or filled with beef, fish, chicken or vegetable.

The Roti Canai, a popular delicacy in Malaysia, is one of seven appetizers on the menu, and is served with the mildly hot curry dipping sauce.

The Vietnamese Spring Rolls with minced pork, glass noodles and vegetables is wrapped in thick but soft rice paper instead of the run-of-the-mill *lumpia* wrapper. The rolls are wrapped in lettuce leaf and dipped into the tangy sauce; aromatic kaffir leaves are optional.

Malaysian desserts are also served, such as the Gula Melaka, *sago* pearls in coconut cream and brown sugar syrup, that brings to mind the local *taho* sans the soybean curd. Thai Halo-Halo is a mix of water chestnuts, corn, jackfruit and macapuno in coconut milk.

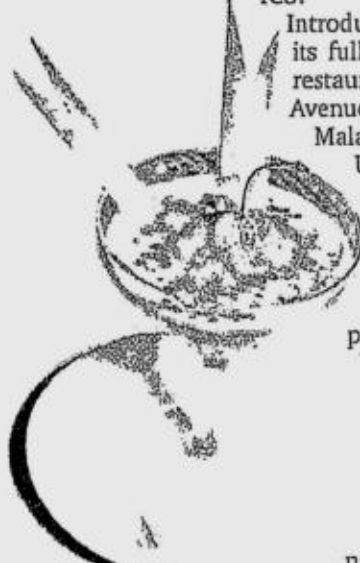
"Filipinos will ultimately like Asian food [above the rest]," Mok says, and that's one of the reasons all eight partners decided to bring in Penang food.

Penang has three chefs—a head chef, sous chef and chef de parte—trained by Malaysian cooks, and all with previous Malaysian cooking experience. At present, Mok says, they are working on their Malaysian *merienda* fare to bring in people during slow hours.

Most of Penang's servings are big, good enough for two or three people.

"We believe that food is best when it's shared, and the prices become more reasonable that way," says Mok. A complete meal can be had for P250-300 each. When dining out alone, however, it's best to ask for the single-serving size.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



GULA Melaka



THE RESTAURANT can seat up to 80 guests.

Sundry treats

GYT Enterprise Corporation produces Lipa Fresh Buko Juice in a convenient, sanitary and leak-proof package that doesn't compromise the fruit's natural freshness, flavor and quality. The juice has gained its BFAD approval five years ago, and in 1999, it passed strict Japanese standards and is now sold in Tokyo and Nagasaki. Lipa Fresh Buko Juice is available in different restaurants, groceries and supermarkets.



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SWISS Miss delights children and adults with hot choco drinks like Milk Chocolate with Marshmallows and Rich Choco Hot Cocoa Mix. Even the diet-conscious can indulge in Swiss Miss Diet and Swiss Miss Fat Free Hot Cocoa Mix with Calcium. There's also the Swiss Miss Bundle Pack, a combination of cocoa mixes with Polymax, a cereal beverage. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Fly Ace Corporation, Swiss Miss Chocolate Mixes are available in leading supermarkets and department stores.



AT NESTLE-GOYA'S Kiddie School Fun tour, students are treated to Knick Knack biscuits, Boom Boom lollipops and Frutips candies. Photo shows King Munchee of Fruitlandia having a good time with the students.

Establishments resolve consumers' problems

IT pays to complain for it drives concerned establishments to resolve the issues. If these are not resolved, at least you have vented your gripe so other consumers may be forewarned. Here are letters of praises from consumers and reports of how establishments resolved the concerns of customers.

Dr. L. Lasam of Crown Village, East Cainta, wrote a couple of weeks ago about the frequent power interruption in his neighborhood. During the holidays, he said, the brownouts lasted 14 hours. He wrote again, this time with the good news that Meralco had solved the problem. A Meralco repair crew, led by Engineer Apolinar Cruz, inspected the premises of their house last Jan. 8 and determined the cause of the trouble—secondary wires that were damaged by the branches of an adjacent tree.

He reported: "The crew took the small tree down, replaced the exposed wires and changed our electric meters, too."

Just to add to Dr. Lasam's report, we also got a call from Meralco's branch manager, Alex Manalo, who informed us about the development. "We replaced the wire on the same day and recommended to our distribution office an extension of primary and secondary lines to facilitate split loading in the area."

All is well that ends well. We advise Meralco customers in Cainta to call Alex Manalo (tel. 678-5067).

Investigated complaint

We appreciate the prompt response of Odette Aguilar of eBusiness Services, the local agent of Western Union Money Transfer, to the complaint of a customer (this column, Jan. 16 "Money transfer woes"). Aguilar, who is the branch head, personally visited the complainant and investigated the teller to get a detailed account.

Aguilar explained why and when identification papers had to be verified several times. The customer resented this and felt that the teller was being rude.

"It is a policy of Western Union to release the money only to the designated recipient," Aguilar reasoned out. She apologized to the client. "Rude, however, is too strong a word to describe our shortcoming. Nonetheless, our teller called up the client to apologize."

"At times when we fall short of our customers' expectations, please call our attention so we can serve them better." Send comments to Aguilar's e-mail address cubao@e-businessphil.com.

Replaced or refunded

M. del Rosario, of peborit@hotmail.com, complained that she did not get the high-memory SIM card that should have come with the new cell phone she bought during a promotional offer of Globe to post-paid subscribers. Instead, she was given a Globe Explore SIM card by sellers at the service center in SM Fairview. She wrote a letter of complaint and later got the high-memory SIM card, as advertised.

"I got a call from a Globe representative. He apologized and advised me to go to the Globe service center in Rockwell to claim the card. The fact that my complaint was heard was good enough," she wrote.

Here's a letter of praise from Jay Supuran of jps@iconex.net: "Thank you for giving space to our complaint published in this column last Jan. 16. LBC refunded the money that they failed to deliver to our grandmother in Leyte."

Nora R. Quijano wrote: "Thank you,

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



Readers praise establishments for acting on their complaints

Compex replaced the cordless phone I bought."

Hoax by text warning

A woman journalist would not have made the mistake of giving away her personal identity to an unidentified cell phone texter. But her house help did! The maid reasoned out that according to the texter, a certain Atty. Basalo, her phone's 11-digit number had won P1.5 million. The texter claimed to be an officer-in-charge of GMA Foundation. Expectedly, he was in no way connected to GMA Foundation.

The journalist said, "I called up Smart Customer Service. They took down my complaint, but they said I had to complain directly to National Telecommunications Commission. I faxed my complaint to the NTC complaints department (tel/fax numbers 436-7722/4202). According to the lady who answered, the action they would take was to 'bombard' the offending cell phone with texts warning the user about his nefarious use of the phone."

Mail scam

E. Ignacio of ernie_ignacio@hotmail.com wrote to us to warn readers about mysterious packages supposedly sent by unheard-of organizations in the US. He said that a forwarding company based in Sta. Cruz, Manila called up his office and asked for his brother. According to the caller, his brother's 10-year-old son had a package containing books with a declared value of US\$235. The cost of delivery and freight charges totaled US\$79.50. The caller asked him to make a commitment to pay the charges upon delivery.

None of the relatives in the US knew anything of the shipment. Ignacio also found it strange that the supposed forwarding company would look for his brother in his office when the shipment was addressed to his nephew at his residence address. The name of the organization was not on the Internet. Moreover, his brother passed away a few months earlier.

Caller ID at ISP

M. Abis wrote: "Why do Internet Service Providers (ISP) use caller IDs to track which website their customers go to or which phone number they are using? I received a phone call from a man, evidently a salesman, who asked if I was using their brand of pre-paid phone card. It was evident that he tracked my number through the ISP. I was on the Internet earlier and had just used up my pre-paid card. The man admitted that they had a caller ID installed to track down their customers."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-mani-la.com.ph

Executive lunch for a reasonable price

TO give Makati's lunch crowd more choices, Merk's Bar Bistro will offer an executive lunch starting Feb. 3. Located at the third level of Greenbelt 3, Merk's is a popular destination for live music entertainment.

It features the cuisine of the renowned Bistro Remedios of Malate.

While its menu carries an array of appetizers, soup, main dishes and desserts, lunch-goers can

choose from any of the three set-choices for the Executive Lunch.

Merk's accepts reservations for groups, lunch meetings and special arrangements.

Call 757-4720/21.

Car wash fun with the Flintstones

JOLIBEE and Flintstones team up to take kids on a fun trip to the car wash!

Kids can play and have fun with the Flintstones as they take their cars for a much needed soaping, rinsing, drying and polishing at Bedrock's car wash.

Each character takes his turn performing a specific car-cleaning chore. Bubbles blow and burst as Barney gets his car

soaped up on the top level, while Wilma gets watered down on the next. Zoom down with Fred to dry off his car and then to the last level where Betty's car gets a prehistoric polish.

It's a step-by-step fun for your kids with the Flintstones car wash, only with every purchase of a Jolly Kiddie Meal at a Jollibee store near you.



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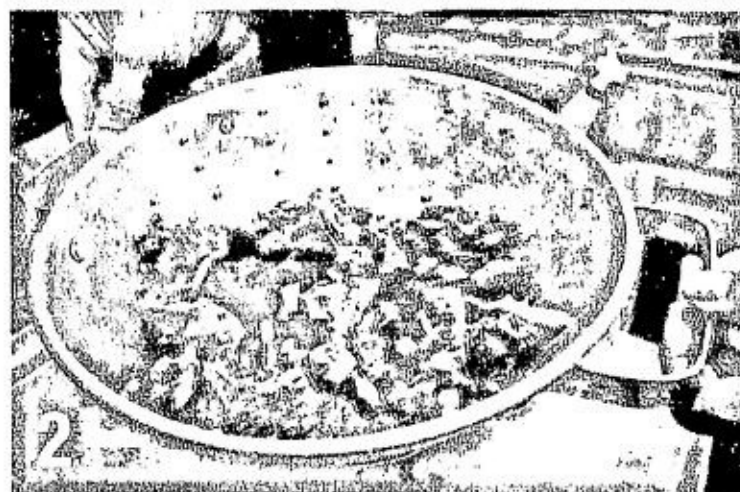
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D4



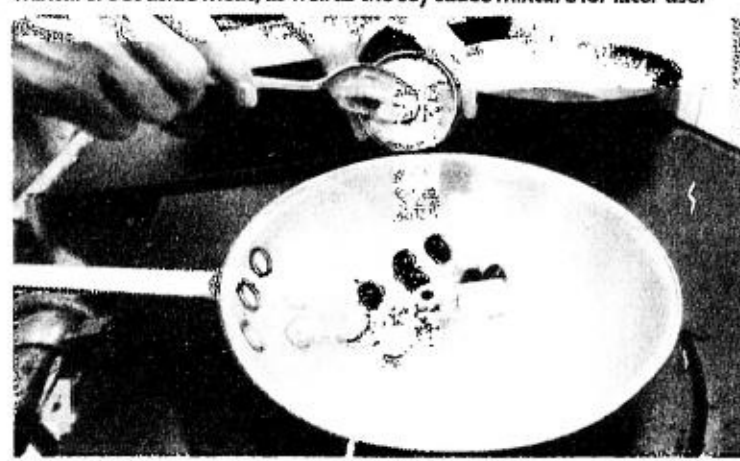
DRAIN and place in an open pan to let it dry.



THOROUGHLY wash goat meat in running water.



IN a saucepan, boil meat with soy sauce, Sprite, vinegar and bay leaf for two hours or until meat is soft and tender. Strain meat from the soy sauce mixture. Set aside meat, as well as the soy sauce mixture for later use.



IN a separate pan, sauté olive oil, garlic and onion, add black and green olives then mix in the liver spread.

Year of the goat, year of the 'kaldereta'

From page D1

Kaldereta is the spicy stew specialty of Central and Northern Luzon. It is a favorite *pulutan* of beer-drinkers and a must-serve during town fiestas.

The meat of a whole goat can be cooked into dishes like *pinapaitan*, *kilawin*, *sinampalukan* and *estofado* but *kaldereta* is the hottest, both in spice and in following.

Goat meat is said to be better meat than chicken, pork and beef because it is lean, high in protein, low in fat and cholesterol.

And if prepared correctly, it is sweet and tender, and rates somewhere between beef and lamb in flavor.

The Pinoy's traditional *kaldere-tang kambing* makes use of tomato sauce, potatoes, carrots, coconut milk (optional) and a lot of chilies for a very spicy finish. One problem that some people have with cooking goat meat is its gamy odor. According to chef Romy Dollete of Caffe Appassionato (N. Garcia St., Makati), the goat meat should be cleaned thoroughly before cooking to eliminate the unwanted smell. After washing, the meat must be soaked in vinegar. "It's also best to check where you buy your meat," he notes. "It's always best to buy a newly slaughtered goat than a two- or three-day-old meat."

At Caffe Appassionato (tels. 899-5410, 895-7219), reputed to serve the best *Kalderetang Kambing* in town, the slightest odor of the goat is completely eliminated.

According to owner Bert Bravo, the cafe's recipe for its best-selling *Kalderetang Kambing* came from his good friend and golf buddy Al Mendoza, the *INQUIRER* sports editor who hails from Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

"When our chef left two years ago, people missed his *Kalderetang Kambing*," recalls Bravo. "When Al found out about this, he offered his best-kept family recipe for *Kalderetang Kambing* and painstakingly taught our chefs. Since then, people have been coming back for our

kaldereta."

Serve *Kalderetang Kambing* hot with a heaping of rice or with just a glass of cold beer or red wine.

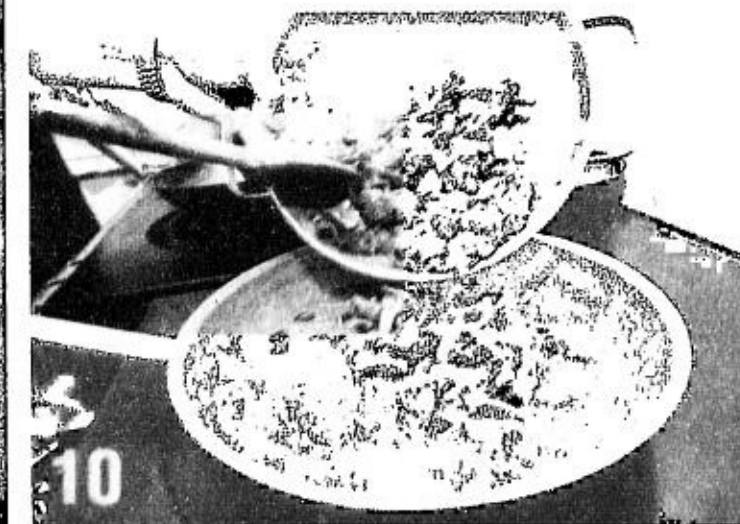
Ingredients:

1.2 k goat meat, cut into large cubes
1 can Sprite
½ c soy sauce
100 g carrots, quartered, fried
100 g potato, quartered, fried
50 g red and green bell pepper
85 g liver spread
50 g green olives
50 g black olives
100 g cheddar cheese
50 ml olive oil
100 g Spanish sausage
15 g garlic
100 g onion
3 pc bay leaf
.5 g siling labuyo
.75 ml vinegar
200 ml fresh tomatoes, peeled and crushed
salt and pepper

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



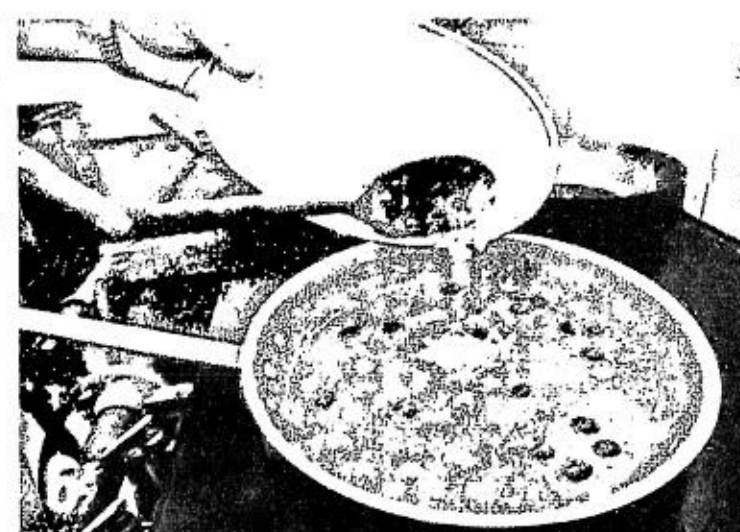
THEN add potatoes and carrots in the pan and cook for a few minutes more. (Note: Add more chilies if prefer super hot.)



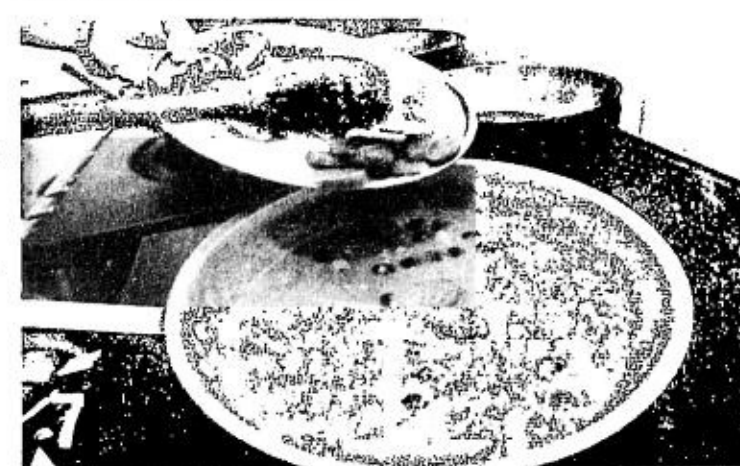
ADD the goat meat. Bring to a boil.



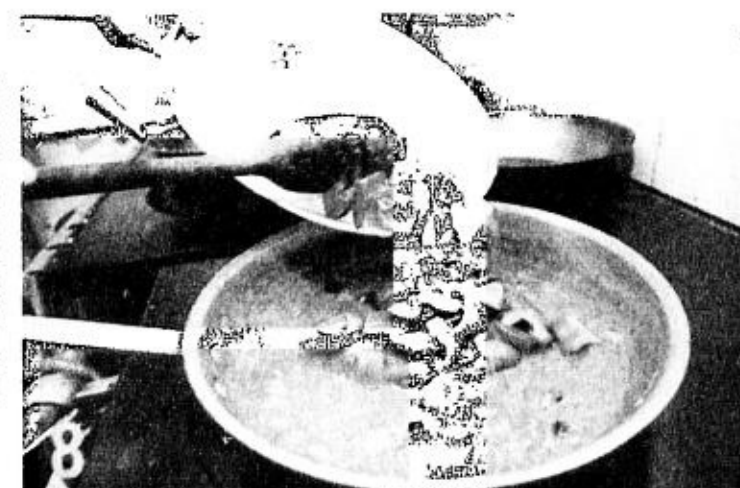
ADD freshly crushed tomatoes.



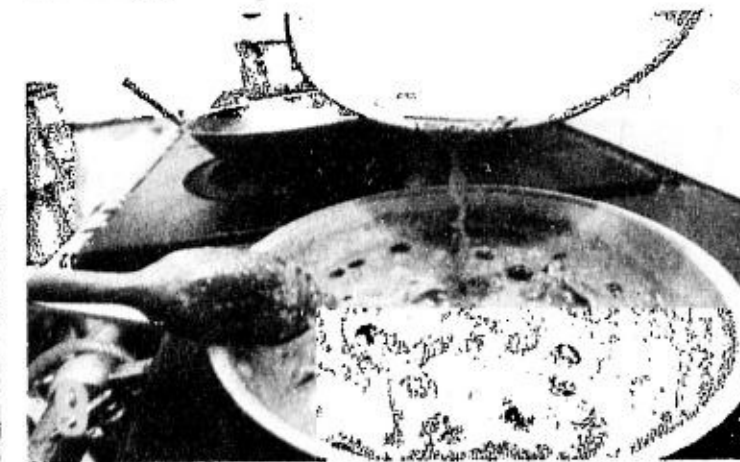
ADD cheddar cheese. Stir well.



ADD sausage.



ADD bell pepper.



ADD the soy sauce mixture.